

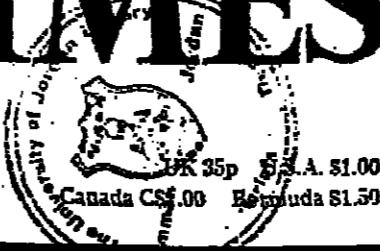
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FINANCIAL TIMES

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**OVERSEAS MOVING
BY MICHAEL GERSON**
01-446 1300

WORLD NEWS

Summit lifts hopes in US

Senior US officials echoed President Reagan's hopes of further progress in relations with the Soviet Union in the wake of the Geneva summit, but warned that progress would be slow.

National security adviser Robert McFarlane said the summit "succeeded beyond reasonable expectations in establishing a very fair understanding on both sides of the other country's purposes, priorities, ambitions and willingness to compromise." Back Page

Rail fares to rise

British Rail is to increase passenger fares by an average of more than 8 per cent in the New Year. Page 4

Trial for McGlinchey

Domonique McGlinchey, once Ireland's most wanted man, was sent for trial at Dublin's anti-terrorist court on charges connected with his capture in March last year.

Heath's warning

Former Prime Minister Edward Heath warned a decision for Britain to quit Unesco would be a foreign policy error reflecting the growth in the UK of "nasty, narrow-minded nationalists." Page 6

Beirut ceasefire

A Syrian-mediated ceasefire took hold in Beirut after two days of fierce fighting which had interrupted the hostage rescue mission of Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy. Page 2

Poland frees 110

Poland said it had released 110 political prisoners this month for humanitarian reasons. They were all first-time offenders.

Reagan biographer

President Ronald Reagan has selected Kenya-born historian Edmund Morris to write his biography. Mr Morris accompanied Mr Reagan to Geneva for this week's summit.

French dock strike

French dockers have called a 48-hour strike from midnight in protest against job cuts. Most main ports are to be affected but ferry services are unlikely to be disrupted.

Mach 12 jet plan

The Pentagon is to proceed with a \$500m (£345m) plan to develop an engine for an aircraft capable of flying at 12 times the speed of sound—8,880 mph—and circling the globe in under four hours.

Alcohol 'air hazard'

Heavy drinking by passengers and large amounts of alcohol on planes are flight hazards, a British pathologist told the New Delhi inquiry into the crash of an Air India jet off Ireland, in June.

Cuban sugar hit

Cuba said it feared a reduction in its sugar crop after Hurricane Kate damaged 2.5m acres of cane—equivalent to a quarter of the country's cultivated land—this week.

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BUSINESS SUMMARY

FT index hits record 1,135.4

EQUITIES advanced to record levels for the fourth consecutive day, strengthened by Wall Street's overnight surge but underpinned by the rash of recent favourable trading statements. The FT Ordinary share index climbed 13.8 to a record

A LAST DITCH effort to secure the future of Westland, Britain's only helicopter manufacturer, through an injection of European rather than American capital has been launched by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary.

Mr Heseltine is in intensive consultations with his French, Italian and West German counterparts to see whether arrangements can be made for the helicopter industries of the three countries, singly or collectively, to take shares in the troubled British company.

Westland, which since June has been under the chairmanship of Sir John Cuckney, veteran of many corporate rescues, appears to favour the European solution to its problems.

It is believed that Sikorsky would be ready, within the tight timetable imposed by the need to produce preliminary balance sheet figures by the middle of next month, to come up with a cash injection in return for a minority stake in the company, as well as new work.

This would probably involve building the Sikorsky Black Hawk helicopter to tide Westland over until its new naval and utility helicopter, being built jointly with Agusta, the Italian company, is ready in the early 1990s.

The Italian Government and Agusta appear very worried by this prospect. Agusta is arguing that in the absence of the US company, Sikorsky, which is owned by United Technologies, could adversely affect individual European helicopter manufacturers.

However, there is also considerable scepticism both in Britain and abroad over whether a European alternative can be found for the company both within the time available and

so make substantial cuts in overmanning and correspondingly high costs.

To date the union has agreed to direct input by journalists on several provincial newspapers but not a leading newspaper printed in London.

The union's offer was made in a letter to Mr Bill O'Neill, vice president of News International, publisher of the Sun, The Times, Sunday Times and News of the World, yesterday that it is prepared to accept the principle of direct computerised typesetting by journalists on The Post, a London evening newspaper Mr Murdoch is planning to launch next year.

The union is also believed to have said that with the National Union of Journalists it will put forward jointly proposals for the operation of such a system at News International's new printing plant in London's Docklands.

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13 killed in township clashes, say police

By Anthony Robinson in Johannesburg

The official death toll in the latest clashes between police and demonstrators in the black township of Mandela near Pretoria on Wednesday rose to 13 yesterday when police reported finding bodies in various parts of the township.

News delivered police batters were used to scatter crowds during the violent clashes but police denied reports by local residents that police had fired on the crowd from them.

"No shots of any nature were fired from helicopters," a police spokesman said.

A local magistrate yesterday imposed a weekend ban on all funerals in the township that was reported to have taken place last night.

The Mandela parents' organisation is seeking an urgent meeting with Mr Louis Le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, to complain that notice gave no warning before shooting on a large crowd of mainly elderly people and youths protesting against a ban on funerals, high rents and the army and police presence in the township.

Police alleged that they had been "confronted by a particularly violent mob" and bombarded with petrol bombs and half-bricks. Residents said violence started when police fired teargas at the protesters.

The death toll was one of the highest in a single day in the past 15 months of anti-apartheid violence. The Government has confirmed more than 800 deaths, but the toll is thought to be more than 900.

Meanwhile, in Cape Town, police arrested three people after a grenade was thrown at a group of soldiers standing beside their armoured car near the Crossroads squatter camp.

A further 404 people were arrested under emergency regulations last week.

NEC to boost US output

By Carla Rapoport in Tokyo

NEC, one of Japan's leading electronics groups, yesterday outlined plans for a major expansion of its US production in a move aimed at easing the continuing trade friction between Japan and the US.

Mr Koji Kobayashi, NEC's chairman, gave details of the increase following his return from a visit to a new colour television plant in Georgia. He said NEC's goal is to have 50 per cent of its US sales produced domestically within two to three years. This will cover NEC's range of products from home appliances to telecommunications, and NEC executive said yesterday.

NEC currently exports around \$1.4bn (2970m) worth of goods to the US which accounts for about 70 per cent of its US sales. Mr Kobayashi said the new Georgia plant, for example, will double production capacity of colour television sets by next summer to 240,000 units a year.

He said the company expects to build a second plant by the end of next year to produce 48,000 units of specialty televisions. A third plant is planned for 1987 to produce 240,000 more colour television sets a year.

NEC also intends to increase its number of sales outlets in the US from 1,000 currently to about 5,000 by 1987. It is aiming to raise its market share in the US through increased domestic production. In colour televisions, NEC is aiming to command a 5 per cent share by 1988, compared to less than 1 per cent currently. In VTRs, it hopes to triple its share from 1 per cent to 3 per cent of the US market.

Japanese production of cars, trucks and buses grew 17 per cent in October from a year earlier to a record 1.13m units, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association announced yesterday. AP-DJ reports from Tokyo. The previous record of 1.106.290 units was recorded last July.

Anthony Robinson reports on growing speculation that the African National Congress leader may be freed

The risks Pretoria would run in releasing Mandela

OF ALL the demands made on the South African Government none is more persistent or universal than the demand to release Mr Nelson Mandela, the 67-year-old leader of the banned African National Congress (ANC) who has been in jail for the last 22 years.

Whether in the form of defiant graffiti chalked on township walls, as a condition for calling off consumer boycotts or as recommendations from foreign governments and bankers, the essence is the same — release the man who has become the symbol of black resistance to apartheid.

Last January, during the opening of the new tri-national parliament, President P. W. Botha dropped his previous insistence that Mr Mandela could only be released into the obscurity of a homeland and offered to release him into South Africa proper, provided he agreed publicly to foreswear the ANC's policy of reluctantly formulated in the early 1960s, of violent overthrow of the Government and the apartheid system.

Once again, Mr Mandela proudly refused to accept anything but his unconditional release. Since then the domestic and international pressures on South Africa have inexorably increased, and so has the belief that releasing Mr Mandela and negotiating with the ANC is an indispensable pre-requisite for meaningful black-white negotiations.

Three weeks ago Mr Mandela was taken from Pollsmoor jail to the organisation's headquarters in Lusaka that he could not confirm that a new release offer had been made.

Her visit was followed yesterday by that of two lawyers acting for the Mandela family.

But prison regulations required a "no comment" when asked whether they were bearers of a new government offer to their client.

While speculation continues over the timing of Mr Mandela's release, however, sober voices are weighing up the possible consequences, and expressing serious doubts. For Mr John Kane-Berman, director of the Institute of Race Relations,

to a nearby Cape Town hospital and operated on for an enlarged prostate gland. The operation was successful — but Mr Mandela has not been taken back to jail, fuelling speculation that the Government may be about to release him, on compassionate grounds.

Despite official denials speculation mounted this week when Mr Mandela's wife Winnie flew to Cape Town from Soweto, where she is living in defiance of an eight-year government banning order obliging her to live in a remote Free State village.

AN ANC spokesman said at the organisation's headquarters in Lusaka that he could not confirm that a new release offer had been made.

Whether they would accept Mr Mandela's release and exile are the key issues.

The most superficially attractive option for the Government would be to release Mr Mandela but hastily bundle him out of the country to Lusaka or elsewhere and declare him a prohibited immigrant in the hope that after the initial clamour he would sink into obscurity like Mr Toivo ja Toivo, Mr Toivo, jailed leader of the South West Africa Peoples Organisation (Swapo) was released two years ago.

Such a move would not only be cruel to a man who has served 22 years in jail, it would be to force upon him. If so the risk is that Mr Mandela would take the next airplane back to South Africa and court immediate re-arrest.

But a similar risk exists if Mr Mandela were to be released unconditionally into South Africa and threw himself back into leading an organisation which is banned, as he has promised to do.

Under these circumstances it appears virtually impossible to see how the Government could release Mr Mandela until such time as it has made up its mind to ban the ANC, release other jailed leaders such as Mr Walter Sisulu and Mr Govan Mbeki (jailed with Mr Mandela) and permit the return of ANC leaders in exile.

Before doing that however, it would have had to make up its mind about what exactly it was going to negotiate about — and the ANC has made clear that it is only prepared to negotiate a form of power sharing which would lead to a black majority in a unitary state based on one-man, one-vote. There is no sign that the Government is anywhere near such a radical volte face.

The South African business men who went to Lusaka last month to meet ANC leaders, and who questioned them as to

also be very risky, Mr Kane-Berman believes. "That way he would become a king across the water, the leader of a government in exile which would soon gain widespread international recognition." This would not only embarrass South Africa abroad but would put paid to hopes of a negotiated, democratic settlement to Africa's political future.

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Under these circumstances it appears virtually impossible to see how the Government could release Mr Mandela until such time as it has made up its mind to ban the ANC, release other jailed leaders such as Mr Walter Sisulu and Mr Govan Mbeki (jailed with Mr Mandela) and permit the return of ANC leaders in exile.

Before doing that however, it would have had to make up its mind about what exactly it was going to negotiate about — and the ANC has made clear that it is only prepared to negotiate a form of power sharing which would lead to a black majority in a unitary state based on one-man, one-vote. There is no sign that the Government is anywhere near such a radical volte face.

The South African business men who went to Lusaka last month to meet ANC leaders, and who questioned them as to

also be very risky, Mr Kane-Berman believes. "That way he would become a king across the water, the leader of a government in exile which would soon gain widespread international recognition." This would not only embarrass South Africa abroad but would put paid to hopes of a negotiated, democratic settlement to Africa's political future.

The South African business men who went to Lusaka last month to meet ANC leaders, and who questioned them as to

whether they would accept Mr Mandela's release and exile are the key issues.

The most superficially attractive option for the Government would be to release Mr Mandela but hastily bundle him out of the country to Lusaka or elsewhere and declare him a prohibited immigrant in the hope that after the initial clamour he would sink into obscurity like Mr Toivo ja Toivo, Mr Toivo, jailed leader of the South West Africa Peoples Organisation (Swapo) was released two years ago.

Such a move would not only be cruel to a man who has served 22 years in jail, it would be to force

Thatcher invites Ulster delegation

By John Hunt and Hugh Carnegie
MRS THATCHER has invited a representative delegation from the Northern Ireland Assembly at Downing Street next Tuesday in an effort to allay Protestant fears about the Anglo-Irish agreement.

She is also considering setting up new consultative machinery to keep the Ulster Unionists informed of the working of the inter-governmental conference with the Republic.

The invitation was given to Mr James Kilfedder, Speaker of the Assembly, who is Ulster Popular Unionist MP for North Down.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, and Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionists, are members of the assembly, but it is not known if they will be in the delegation.

The Alliance party is also a member of the assembly but the Social Democratic Party and Labour Party and Sinn Fein are boycotting it.

The assembly has passed a resolution condemning the agreement as "an intolerable derogation of British sovereignty" and Mr Kilfedder invited Mrs Thatcher to address it.

In a letter released last night she said she could not accept the invitation at the moment, but she invited the delegation to Downing Street.

In Belfast, Unionist leaders are counting on a massive turnout at a rally called today to back their opposition to the agreement.

They have called for the biggest demonstration since the signing of the Ulster Covenant in 1921. Loyalist organisations have thrown their weight behind the rally and supporters will be bussed in from all over the province.

The size of the rally will give some indication of the extent of grassroots Unionist opposition to the accord. The Orange Order expects around 100,000 people to jam the city centre to hear Mr Molyneux and Mr Paisley.

In Dublin, Dr Garrett Fitzgerald's Fine Gael-Labour coalition has been buoyed by the majority of 13 of the agreement received in the Dail (lower House) on Thursday, one of the biggest majorities the government has won in three years.

Dr Fitzgerald will be looking to close the 15-point lead the opposition Fianna Fail party has held in recent opinion polls. There are predictions in Dublin that the staunch opposition of Fianna Fail leader, Mr Charles Haughey, to the agreement could cost his party up to five points in the polls.

The Ulster Unionists' renewed attempt to challenge the agreement will be made in the High Court on Monday.

Their application for leave to seek judicial review of aspects of the accord will be made to Mr Justice Taylor at an open court.

It follows the rejection by Mr Justice Mann on Thursday of the Unionists' initial documentary application.

BR passenger fares will rise by 8% in January

By SUE CAMERON

BRITISH RAIL is to put up passenger fares by an average of more than 8 per cent in the New Year — more than the rate of inflation for this year which is expected to be about 6 per cent.

Price rises in London and the south-east and on British Rail's local and provincial services will average 7.5 per cent.

But annual distance season tickets and many standard tickets on InterCity will go up by around 10 per cent.

The higher fares, announced yesterday, follow the publication last week of BR's latest corporate plan, which shows that its InterCity business is now expected to fall well short of the profit targets set for it by the Government.

THE NATIONALISED industry chairmen who were meeting the Prime Minister for dinner last night had much in common.

Groundwork over recent months, between their sponsoring government departments and the chairmen and their staffs, ensured that much in dispute had been resolved.

Further, the Government and chairmen agree they both want more market-orientated, independent corporations which, where these stay in the public domain, will be expected to behave like commercial companies.

Last year this could not have been said. The Treasury's proposals for reforming the statutory framework governing the relationship between state and industries had aroused the chairmen's ire. It was seen as a plan to put them all under tight Treasury control and to keep them there in a straight-jacket.

The ire was orchestrated well enough to force the Treasury to back off last autumn, to come back last December with revised proposals in a consultation document. This suggested new, more modest areas for reform, with the intention that this would be tied into a bill for the present parliamentary session.

The reform envisaged was very much in the financial and accounting sectors—borrowing, report and accounts, and financial targets, with the appointment and dismissal of board members added for good measure.

Agreement on marketplace role

John Lloyd on a meeting between state industry chiefs and the Prime Minister



Mr John MacGregor: no statutory framework

Much was uncontroversial. Recommendations for common reporting conventions and for giving board members controls which allowed both for instant dismissal and higher salaries were unlikely to attract much argument from the chairmen.

Two years ago InterCity was told to aim for a £36m profit by 1988/89 and to cut its grant from the taxpayer to £86m by 1986/87 in the interim. But last week BR admitted that InterCity was likely to make a £36m loss in 1988/89 and to have a grant requirement of £90m in 1986/87.

But the corporate plan did show that BR was on course to meet its overall target of reducing its call on the taxpayer by 25 per cent in the three years to 1986/87.

The latest round of fare increases, set to start on January 12, are designed to help BR cut its subsidy from the taxpayer as well as to boost the disappointing performance

Ceiling removed on aid for coal conversion

By Maurice Samuelson

THE Government yesterday abolished the ceiling of the amount of money available to help industry switch to coal and other fuels.

Mr Peter Walker, Energy Secretary, said he had removed the £75m limit on public expenditure on total grants. The scheme, due to expire at the end of the year, would run at least to June 1987.

The move coincides with the first hard evidence that the National Coal Board is beginning to break even. It did so last month after depreciation but before interest charges — the first time since 1979.

Speaking at a joint press conference at the board's headquarters with Mr Ian MacGregor, NCB chairman, Mr. Walker presented the extension of the grants scheme as part of his department's programme to improve Britain's energy efficiency. Welcoming the move, Mr MacGregor said it would help to expand the NCB's biggest potential growth market.

Both men viewed the scheme as part of the coal industry's recovery from the miners' strike. They said customers no longer appeared frightened that coal supplies would be disrupted by industrial action.

More tricky have been proposals on financial targets and financial restructuring. The proposals called for these targets to have the force of law and for the state industries' balance-sheets to be restructured so that all of its reserves were capitalised both as debt and public dividend capital.

This would end the convention whereby profitable industries "lent" money to the Exchequer through the mechanism of negative external financing limits.

The chairman has been all for a more liberal framework, more for it, indeed, than the Government. Their particular concerns have been to define just who their masters are. It is not so simple, these days, as saying that it is self-evidently the Government.

It became clear as talks continued that the Government's statutory framework would be a loose one. Then, last week, Mr John MacGregor, the new Chief Secretary to the Treasury, announced that there would be no statutory framework at all.

The privatisation programme, which has clear priority for the Government, had already squeezed the life out of the 1985/86 session and now had squeezed it out of this parliament altogether.

Last night's dinner was unlikely to have decided anything in itself. It will lead to renewed talks between the chairmen and the Government until the differing statutory changes appropriate to each of them are agreed.

Eyes down for business as usual at Mecca Leisure

David Goodhart on the end of a 15-year link for an entertainment centres group

MECCA LEISURE has finally severed its 15-year link with Grand Metropolitan. But the team of four senior managers who are heading the buy-out were yesterday not celebrating a liberation.

When Mr Michael Guthrie, the chairman and chief executive, was asked about his plans for the bingo halls to holiday camps group he said it would be more or less business as usual.

That is perhaps not surprising as the successful restructuring of Mecca Leisure has been in the hands of the same four men since 1979.

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Mr Guthrie, 44, joined the company from Blackpool catering college in 1981 — which perhaps explains his interest in theme catering in pubs.

For example, divisional

demarcations had blocked

Mecca developments in bars and

catering where possible competi-

tion with Grand Met Holst or

Berni Inns might arise.

Management shake-up at stockbroking firm

By JOHN MOORE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

HOARE GOVETT, the stockbroking firm which has forged a link with Security Pacific, the US bank, announced a big reorganisation of its management yesterday in preparation for the changes in the British securities market.

A seven-man executive committee is to be formed, headed by Mr Richard West, a senior director of Hoare Govett. Mr Malcolm Edwards, the NCB's commercial director, is to head the board regarded these companies as "lost sheep" which had to be rounded up.

About £35m had been invested in coal-burning equipment since the launch of the grants scheme. Grants accounted for £67m, an investment which had resulted in more than 2.5m tonnes of new annual business for coal from the 300 projects already operating or under construction.

An extra £m tonnes a year would result from the 130 additional projects approved for grants.

Potential conversions to coal in the manufacturing and processing sectors could add a further 3m-4m tonnes a year to the industrial market of about 8m tonnes.

The scheme, set up in 1981, provides grants of up to 25 per cent of the cost of converting to coal or replacing existing oil- or gas-fired industrial equipment. In addition, companies can apply for soft loans from the European Coal and Steel Community

HOARE GOVETT, the stockbroking firm which has forged a link with Security Pacific, the US bank, announced a big reorganisation of its management yesterday in preparation for the changes in the British securities market.

These four named yesterday are Mr Johnny Brooks, to head US equities and trading; Mr Nigel Johnson-Hill responsible for the international side; Mr Roger Livesey, for debt instruments; and Mr Bob Cowell, in charge of global research and key clients.

The move anticipates changes in the Stock Exchange rules likely in March 1988, allowing non-members of the exchange to sit on boards of member companies. Neither Mr Greyer nor Mr Cowell is a Stock Exchange member.

Mr Peter Jenks will be finance director and four newly created managing directors will

Government makes £1bn debt issue

By Alexander Nicoll

THE Government took advantage yesterday of a modest bounce in the gilt-edged market to announce a £1bn debt issue, including an innovative conversion option designed to make it more attractive to investors.

The 10½ per cent Exchequer conversion stock due in 1989 is being sold to the public by tender at a minimum price of 98.5 per cent, giving it a yield to maturity of 10.72 per cent.

Tenders are due at the Bank of England by the morning of November 10 with payment of £40 per £100 due on that day, and the remainder on January 13.

The announcement of a new issue was not a surprise to the market, since steady sales of board stocks over recent weeks have considerably reduced the amount of paper that the Government Broker has available to sell.

There was some surprise that the Government should issue a short-dated stock. Some City analysts deduced that it must assume that there would be no near-term rise in interest rates, since this would make acceptance of a large short-dated issue difficult.

The authorities always insist that each issue is priced strictly according to current market levels, providing no signal about interest rate trends.

The gilt market welcomed the new conversion feature of the stock. Instead of being convertible into one specified longer-dated stock, as many previous issues have been, it provides the investor with a choice between a 10 per cent due in 1996 or a 9½ per cent due 2006, or any combination of the two.

The options provided by the conversion feature are designed to add extra value for the investor, and to save the Government the small extra interest cost it would have to pay on a four-year issue.

The double option may be particularly attractive given a confused outlook for both medium and long-dated stocks at present.

Engineering orders rise 4%

By Lynton McLean

ORDERS IN the engineering sector rose by 4 per cent in the three months to August compared with the previous three months.

Sales in the same period rose by 2 per cent. The increase reflected improvements in home and export markets. Order books remained steady.

Mechanical engineering sales rose by 3 per cent, reflecting increased UK sales. Orders on hand rose by 2 per cent, a rise in export orders more than offsetting a fall in home orders.

Net new orders rose by 16 per cent, described by the Department of Trade and Industry in its publication British Business as "erratic."

In the electrical and instrument engineering sector total sales rose by 1 per cent in the three months to August. This was a result of export sales rising by 3 per cent, while UK sales remained unchanged.

Order book volume and new orders at home and abroad fell by 2 per cent and 4 per cent respectively.

Orders in hand in the machine-tool industry rose by 7½ per cent in the three months to August. This reflected growth in demand in home and export markets.

Sales of machine-tools fell by 2½ per cent, with exports falling more sharply than home sales.

Liverpool using 'Micawber defence'

By RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

LIVERPOOL city council was proposing to advance a Micawber defence against an application next month to quash the rate it set in June, a High Court judge said yesterday.

Mr Justice Woolf had been told that when the rate was set the council knew the books did not balance immediately.

However, said Mr John Hendy for the council, the rate had been legal because the council had hoped and believed that by the end of the financial year the books would be balanced by

illegal and should be quashed.

The case is expected to be heard early next month. Last month the High Court ruled that the council had acted illegally in sending dismissal notices to its teachers.

Mr Justice Woolf, one of the three judges involved in that decision, said yesterday the council had then made it abundantly clear it had deliberately fixed an illegal rate. He gave the council another week to complete its evidence.

Christie's where the auction was held, sold the same picture in 1984 for 245 guineas.

A portrait of the actor David Garrick, attributed to Gainsborough, was unsold at £30,000 at the same auction.

Adrienne Corri, the actress, wrote a book setting out to prove that Gainsborough painted the picture, which she discovered at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham. However, doubts about the artist's identity remain.

Overall, the auction of English pictures was a success, with receipts totalling £2m.

Sir Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, has announced his intention to retire from the presidency of the National Farmers' Union this week, but has not looked like a happy man for much of his seven years in the job.

And with good reason. He has presided over the union during a period of cuts in financial support from the EEC and the British Government, declining political influence, attack from environmentalists and increasingly acrimonious bickering among members.

In the last couple of years, the fortunes of the NFU — traditionally regarded as one of Britain's most powerful lobby groups — have arguably reached their lowest ebb since the second world war.

There could scarcely be a starker contrast with the position in the 1970s, when British farming underwent its last big boom after the dramatic rise in agricultural prices in the wake of the country's accession to the EEC.

The mild-mannered and gentlemanly Sir Richard also stands in marked personal contrast to his predecessor, Sir Henry Pilkington, the uncompromising roomer who steered the union through the mid-1970s.

Just as important from the British farmers' point of view has been the reversal of attitudes towards them in Whitehall over the past few years.

In the past the Ministry of Agriculture often looked like a law unto itself: before EEC entry, it negotiated annual price reviews with the farmers — frequently to their considerable advantage.

Yet since Mr Michael Jopling became Minister of Agriculture after the 1983 election, chill winds have been blowing.

Record price paid for a Constable

By Antony Thorne

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UK NEWS

Mistake to pull out of Unesco, Heath warns

BY IVOR OWEN

A DECISION by Britain to quit the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation would be a foreign policy error, Mr Edward Heath, the former Conservative Prime Minister, warned yesterday.

In a five-hour Commons debate he said such a decision would reflect the growth of "nasty, narrow-minded vandalism."

He said there could be no justification for deciding to act in the same way as the US which, as a reaction to its Vietnam defeat, was passing through a period of intense nationalism. It believed it "walks high and the rest of the world has to do what is commanded," he said.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, said a decision on withdrawal would be announced in the next month. He assured MPs their views would be carefully considered.

The Government gave notice of its intention to withdraw from Unesco 12 months ago.

Powerful speeches in favour of retaining membership were made from all quarters of the House. Even Sir Peter Blaikie, a former Conservative Foreign

Office Minister and a foremost critic of Unesco, suggested a compromise.

The notice of withdrawal should be suspended for a further period to maintain the momentum of reform which had already begun in the organisation, he said.

Mr George Foulkes, the chief Opposition spokesman in the debate, said the overwhelming view was against withdrawal.

A decision to remain in Unesco would accord with the views of all the other members of the Commonwealth and by Britain's partners in the EEC.

Mr Raison did not dismiss Sir Peter Blaikie's suggestion that the period of notice of withdrawal be extended but emphasised the practical difficulties involved in taking such a course.

Continued membership would involve a contribution next year of £6.4m at the current sterling-dollar exchange rate.

Mr Raison brushed aside a suggestion by Mr Foulkes that the money if withdrawn would probably be "clawed back" by the Treasury. He said he believed it would be retained within the British aid programme.

Insurance group attacks sales force licensing plan

BY ERIC SHORT

AN ATTACK on the proposed system for licensing life assurance and unit trust salesmen has been made by one of Britain's largest insurance groups.

Mr Arthur Duval, chief general manager of the Co-operative Insurance Society, writing in the Post, Magazine & Insurance Monitor, described the proposed central registry of licence holders, with its blacklist of offenders, as a bureaucratic nonsense and quite unnecessary.

The investor protection proposals envisage that any organisation marketing life assurance and unit trusts — life companies, unit trust groups or insurance intermediaries would have to be authorised before being allowed to trade.

Pringle plans £6m knitwear expansion

By Mark Meredith,
Scottish Correspondent

PRINGLE of Scotland yesterday said it planned to invest £6m to establish a knitwear factory in Arbroath, north-east of Dundee, and to expand its plant at Hawick in the Borders.

About 550 jobs could be created in Arbroath, where unemployment is above 18 per cent.

Pringle, part of Dawson International, has benefited from the improved market for knitwear, especially for high-quality cashmere sweaters. Mr Peter Hughes, its financial director, said in Glasgow that the company was getting up in Arbroath partly because of the pool of skilled labour in that part of Tayside.

Under a two-phase expansion for Arbroath, Pringle will move into the former Braemar knitwear plant which closed about 16 years ago. The first phase involves investment of about £1.6m with 150 jobs created by the end of next year. Mr Hughes said the company then planned to spend a further £5m in two phases to build a total labour force of about 550.

• A bright short-term future for the textile industry in Scotland was forecast in a report issued this week by the Scottish Council, Development and Industry (SCDI), a lobbying group with members from public and private sectors.

The report said, however, that employment in textiles and clothes in Scotland was likely to fall in the medium to long term. Employment in the textile industry in Scotland fell by about 40 per cent between 1971 and 1981.

The jobs in this sector, today about 58,000, are almost as many as in the steel, coal and shipbuilding industries combined, or about 3 per cent of total employment in Scotland.

The report said producers would face greater competition from the expanded EEC and the relaxation of controls on imports from developing countries.

Speeding towards the age of the cross-Channel train trip

Andrew Taylor on the implications for French and UK rail systems of fixed link plans

THE ROLE of the British and French state-owned railways is becoming increasingly important in the run-up to the decision on whether to go ahead with plans to build a privately-financed fixed link across the Channel.

British Rail has already said it wants to spend up to £350m on track improvements, rolling stock and new station facilities if a rail crossing is built.

The two governments expect to announce by the end of January which of four groups bidding to construct a fixed link (all involve rail tunnels) will proceed. It seems almost inconceivable that the project will be abandoned and none of the schemes chosen.

The French, in particular, view the railways' role in the venture as crucial. Construction of a fixed link would mean that plans to extend the high-speed rail network, based on the TGV (train à grande vitesse), from Paris to Brussels will almost certainly go ahead.

A fixed link would also raise BR's profile, linking the national rail network directly to the Continent where trains are more widely used to transport freight.

The groups bidding to construct the link have been promised by BR and SNCF in the hope of negotiating deals on tariffs and traffic levels.

However, there are differences in approach between the state-owned railways. SNCF is concerned about a fixed link's capacity to cope with an expansion in rail traffic. It would prefer a rail tunnel carrying BR and SNCF trains only.

BR believes it could share the crossing with a privately-operated rail shuttle which would ferry lorries, cars and

coaches under the Channel. It appears to favour such a scheme proposed by Channel Tunnel Group although BR insists that negotiations with other groups are continuing.

SNCF may be more relaxed about requests from two other main contenders for the link, EuroBridge and Channel Expressway, which want the railways to guarantee a minimum level of traffic for the crossing. BR says the requests from government guidelines that there must be no state financial guarantees to prop up the venture.

However, EuroRoute and Channel Expressway face other problems in convincing the railways about their commitment to a rail link. Both are proposing road schemes as well as a rail crossing.

EuroRoute originally proposed that its road scheme (an ambitious combination of bridges and artificial islands connected mid-Channel by a 21km road tunnel) should open 18 months earlier than the rail tunnel. Channel Expressway planned to run trains on rails embedded in one of two lanes of a twin-bore motorway tunnel.

Both these proposals are still on the table but alternative versions have been proposed by EuroRoute and Channel Expressway in a bid to overcome some of the railways' reservations.

In EuroRoute's case this will involve a rail tunnel being completed at the same time as the road scheme but providing, as a first stage, single track working only. Channel Expressway has now offered a twin-bore rail tunnel as well as its motorway tunnel.

A problem these two schemes face is whether the rail element will generate sufficient income to justify its investment when it will be competing for passengers and freight with a road scheme running alongside.

Hence the desire of the promoters to obtain a minimum guarantee on rail usage.

Less is known about the position of the fourth scheme, a road bridge with a separate rail link, proposed by EuroBridge. The group claims it will generate sufficient traffic on the road bridge to give the tunnel free to BR and SNCF. However, it has had great problems establishing its credibility with financiers and government officials.

The stakes are high. In addition to the four groups' plans BR has prepared its own shopping list of investment to support a fixed link.

This includes £50m for a new London terminal at the northern end of Waterloo station to include customs, immigration and other frontier facilities. About £10m to £15m will be spent improving Ashford station in Kent planned as an interchange for passengers travelling to the Continent but coming from areas outside London.

All investments will have to show a net rate of return of 7 per cent before the Government will proceed but a fixed-link will have to be chosen first.

APPOINTMENTS

New chairman at Centre-File

Mr Gordon Reeve has been appointed chairman of CENTRE-FILE, computer services subsidiary of National Westminster Bank, succeeding Mr Cyril Townsend, on his retirement on November 30. Mr Reeve, who retired on October 31 as general manager of NatWest's management services division, has also been appointed director of the bank's outer London regional board from December 1.

CENTRAL INDEPENDENT TELEVISION has appointed Sir Richard Bailey as chairman of its West Midlands regional board. Sir Patrick Nairne becomes deputy chairman. Sir Richard succeeds Mr David Justham who became chairman of Central following the retirement of Sir Gordon on October 31.

Sir Richard, who is currently deputy chairman of the West Midlands board, is chairman of Royal Doulton. He will join Central's main board. The appointments take effect from January 1.

Mr A. Michael Humphis has been appointed to the main board of NORTHERN ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES as managing director overseas group, replacing Mr J. T. Inglis who has left the company to pursue other business interests. Mr Humphis has been managing director of NEI Thompson, Wolverhampton, since November 1980. Before that he was purchasing director of Coles Cranes in Sunderland (1974-1980).

Mr Peter Stephens has been appointed public affairs director of TESCO STORES from January 1. He succeeds Mr Charles Lewis who is leaving Tesco on January 1 to take up the post of head of public and investor relations of RTZ.

ECONOMIC DIARY

MONDAY: CBI monthly trends inquiry (November). Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (October). EEC Foreign Affairs Council meets in Brussels (until November 26). EEC inter-governmental conference in Brussels. GATT contracting parties meet in Geneva (until November 29).

TUESDAY: EEC Budget Council meets in Brussels. Supreme Soviet in session (until November 27). Start of two-day Commons debate on Anglo-Irish agreement — US durable goods (October).

WEDNESDAY: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings prices and other indicators. Dr Helmut Kohl, West German Chancellor, to visit London. Nordic finance ministers meet in Copenhagen. US merchandise trade (October). MEPC results. Unigate results.

THURSDAY: Overseas travel and tourism (September). Energy trends (September). New vehicle registrations (October). EEC Environment Council meets in Brussels. Royal Bank of Scotland results.

FRIDAY: Company liquidity survey (third quarter). Finished steel consumption and stock changes (third quarter, provisional).

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Building Society 2 day account
(Source: Money Management Sept. 1983, Interest Rate Table, p.76)

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1983	Rec.	% gain as date at 4.11.83.	1984	Rec.	% gain as date at 4.1.85.
Read Executive	5/23	+50%	A & P Apoldore	10/24	+302%
Antarctica Holdings	9/23	+25%	Microgen	1/24	+201 (117)
Griffith	8/22	+245 (17)	Carpets Int.	12/24	+191 (4)
Des Corp.	5/21	+24%	Consultants (C&F)	10/24	+17%
Cope Allmann	12/23	+24% (16)	Australian Con Mins	11/24	+157 (3)
Low & Bonar	9/22	+216	Star Arrow	2/24	+147
Delta	5/22	+213	Wight Cables	2/24	+140
High Point Services	12/23	+207 (18)	Home Charm	3/24	+125 (14)
Vickers	7/23	+190 (25)	Compass	5/24	+119 (10)
Booker McConnell	8/23	+186 (25)	First Nat. Finance	1/25	+126
Bruden	6/23	+186 (22)	Alexandra Workwear	1/25	+105
Lucas Ind.	11/23	+186 (21)	Walker & Hawkes	7/25	+105
Aero Needs	12/23	+185 (21)	Arco: British Ports	1/25	+92 (9)
Wetstone Bank	10/23	+185 (16)	Batch Bencol Carbosil	3/25	+91

National Savings Income Bond
(Source: Money Management Sept. 1983, Interest Rate Table, p.75)

Best unit trust sector performance
(Source: Unit Trust Management, October 1983, unit trust sector performance table, p.11)

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UK NEWS—LABOUR

Return to work order by steel union attacked

By HELEN HAGUE, LABOUR STAFF

SHEFFIELD steelworkers on strike for six weeks at Sheffield Forgemasters have been instructed to return to work by their union executive on terms which concede the company's proposals to abolish centralised shop stewards committee.

The company said yesterday that dismissal notices would be issued shortly to employees who remained on strike—though no timetable for implementing this strategy was given.

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation's executive issued the back to work instruction after an exchange of telexes between the union and Forgemasters' management.

Striking ISTC members condemned it as a "sell out" by their union. Mr Ron Ward, the union's shop steward at the plant, resigned his post yesterday as he felt he could not issue the back to work instruction.

The ISTC strike's deep disillusionment with the instruction prompted a resolution calling for their union to release them from membership so that they could join other unions which would "better represent the interests of private sector steelworkers."

However, the ISTC workers plan to go back to work on Tuesday, if the union instruction is not lifted. This would significantly weaken the strike and strike leaders acknowledge that such a return could lead to a speedy end to the stoppage. There was some confusion

yesterday over the telex sent by Mr Roy Evans, ISTC general secretary, to Mr Philip Wright, managing director of Forgemasters.

Mr Evans said that other unions—including the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the majority union at the site—had assented to the form of words, and would be recommending acceptance to masters.

However, Mr Derek Simpson, the AUEW's district secretary in Sheffield, said no recommendation in favour of the instruction from his union's executive had been received, and that the strike was still official.

The ISTC return to work formula concedes that the long established practice of having a central shop stewards committee to negotiate for all workers at the site will go.

Forgemasters has recently restructured its business into 10 operating subsidiaries—each with responsibility for its own industrial relations.

Mr Ken Long, the local Transport and General Workers union official responsible for Forgemasters, said that any decision to call off the strike would be taken by the members involved not by a national level instruction.

A further mass meeting of all strikers has been called for Monday morning, after full time local union officials have met.

There was some confusion

Mirror shutdown nearer

PREPARATIONS BEGAN yesterday for a shutdown of all Mirror Group Newspaper titles, on the instruction of Mr Robert Maxwell, the group's publisher.

The shutdown will take place if threats by several chapels (local offices) and London branches of the print union, Sagat, to disrupt production are carried out.

Sagat is demanding the withdrawal of dismissal notices issued three weeks ago as a pre-condition for negotiations, the statement confirmed.

In a bulletin to all staff yesterday, Mr Maxwell said that those who took industrial action would automatically dismiss themselves with a loss of all rights including notice pay, redundancy pay, and proposed early retirement benefit.

Members of any union to postpone negotiations will continue to be paid if a shutdown becomes necessary.

Raymond Hunter, law courts correspondent, adds: "Mirrorgroup Newspapers has no chance of obtaining a court order that the Thomson organisation must continue printing Northern editions of the Mirror newspaper at its Withy Grove print works in Manchester after the end of this year, a High Court judge said yesterday."

Revoking directions he gave on Wednesday for the trial to start on December 2, Mr Justice Scott said that MGN had now told him, "with commendable frankness," that it had no intention of sticking to its printing agreement with Thomson Withy Grove beyond the next nine months.

NUM moves against new union

By JOHN LLOYD, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADERS OF the National Union of Mineworkers in the Midlands area have formed a "federated board" to fight the influence of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

The leaders—from Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, South Derbyshire, the Power Group, Warwickshire and the white collar section Coss—held their first meeting on Thursday night.

The grouping was revealed by Mr Trevor Bell, the Coss general secretary, following a meeting of his general council in Derby yesterday.

Mr Bell made a series of allegations about the National Coal Board's bias towards the UDM, and the fact that the

two sides are

"linked." The creation of the board, however, is an indication of the concern felt by leaders in that area over the continuing advance of the UDM, and their tacit recognition that Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, has had little or no effect on stopping the defections to the new union.

Mr Bell said that the new board would raise the issues thrown up by the UDM through Labour MPs in the Commons.

He said the pay offer to the UDM destroyed the former principle of basic wages keeping up with the cost of living, and loaded most of the increase onto productivity improve-

ments.

• A legal move which could threaten the establishment of the UDM was launched in the High Court last night. Mr Justice Warner ordered an urgent hearing of an application by the former president of the South Derbyshire NUM for a court order requiring the disclosure of detailed voting figures in last month's ballot which approved the area's amalgamation with the breakaway union.

Mr Kevin Richards is making the application to obtain evidence of irregularities in the ballot as the basis for a formal complaint. The case is likely to be heard on December 2.

Joseph hint on teachers' pay inquiry

By DAVID BRINDLE, LABOUR STAFF

SPECULATION grew yesterday that the Government is deliberately keeping open the option of an inquiry into teachers' pay and conditions of service.

This followed the sending of a letter from Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, to Mr Gile Radice, the Labour Party's education spokesman, in which he said he was giving "detailed

consideration" to Mr Radice's proposal for an inquiry.

Sir Keith had told Mr Radice in the Commons on Tuesday that it was not up to the Government to produce an initiative in the teachers' dispute and that a "review on pay only" was the last thing that would be contemplated.

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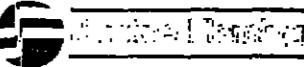
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Railworkers end Swindon closure fight

By DAVID BRINDLE, LABOUR STAFF

WORKERS at the Swindon workshops of British Rail Engineering (Brel) have voted to end opposition to their planned rundown and closure.

A ballot declared yesterday showed 707 to 591 in favour of giving union negotiators a free hand and lifting remaining sanctions.

Mr Graham Humphries, works

committee chairman, said: "We just cannot bury our heads in the sand. But the size of the vote against shows there is still a lot of bad feeling."

Closure of the historic Swindon workshops, which employ 2,300, was announced in May.

The workers, backed by the

local Thamesdown Borough Council, have been holding talks with Brel on the rundown and alternative employment measures. However, other Brel workshops have not supported the anti-closure fight.

Under present redundancy terms a 30-year-old worker with 14 years' experience is likely to be given about £7,300.

The Investment Trust Table

The figures in the columns below are based on information supplied by the companies named, which are members of The Association of Investment Trust Companies. The figures are unaudited.

Total Net Assets (£ million)	as at close of business on Monday 18th November 1985			as at 31st October 1985						as at close of business on Monday 18th November 1985			as at 31st October 1985						as at 31st October 1985					
	INVESTMENT POLICY			Management (3)	Shares Price (4) pence	Yield (5) %	Net Asset Value (6) pence	Geographical Spread			Gearing Factor (11) base=100	Total Net Assets (£ million)	INVESTMENT POLICY			Management (3)	Shares Price (4) pence	Yield (5) %	Net Asset Value (6) pence	Geographical Spread			Gearing Factor (11) base=100	Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 31.10.85 (12) base=100
	Trust (2)	Management	UK					UK	Nth Amer (7) %	Japan (8) %	Other (10) %		Trust (2)	Management	UK	Nth Amer (9) %	Japan (10) %	Other (11) %						
429	Capital & Income Growth	Independently managed	982	3.9	558	43	45	8	6	89	271	38	Comm. & Energy (cont.)	Ivory & Sime	63	2.7	93	51	49	-	98	94		
105	Bankers	Touche, Remnant	100	3.5	123	41	36	11	12	104	269	14	Wemyss	Edinburgh Fund Mgrs.	572	6.0	602	47	29	-	89	152		
129	Business	John Gutfreund	179	2.3	235	11	10	13	13	105	232	26	Winterbottom Energy	Baillie Gifford	68	1.1	104	10	55	15	71	144		
11	Charter Trust & Agency	Kleinwort Benson	82	3.8	107	56	52	10	10	95	241		Technology	Baillie Gifford Tech. (v)	70	1.7	91	54	42	1	53	11		
88	Continental & Industrial	Schroders Inv. M.	655	4.4	764	53	30	2	1	98	228	10	Fleming Technology	Robert Fleming	142	2.4	178	45	33	18	94	210		
132	Edinburgh Investment (w)	Dunedin Fund Managers	120	3.9	155	59	51	15	15	104	243	71	Independent	Ivory & Sime	260	0.3	307	37	60	3	99	210		
534	Foreign and Colonial	Foreign & Colonial	68	2.8	91	29	31	15	15	107	234	86	TR Technology	Touche, Remnant	88	2.8	128	43	39	4	101	222		
785	Industrial	Electric House Group	303	4.8	397	66	24	16	4	103	247	137												
292	Investment	Philip Hill	263	5.3	302	75	23	-	2	92	229		Comm. & Energy (cont.)	Ivory & Sime	231	4.9	277	55	43	3	103	253		
8	Investors	Jos Holdings	135	3.8	153	79	11	3	7	100	263	289	Technology	Edinburgh Fund Mgrs.	512	4.0	570	70	19	8	94	152		
41	Keystone	Warburg, Inv. M.	410	3.5	521	68	18	11	13	110	240	150	British Assets	Dreyfus Premier	240	4.4	362	81	11	1	99	272		
310	London & Strathclyde	Gartmore	170	2.0	195	63	26	4	7	101	219	115	First Scottish American	Philip Hill	256	5.0	325	68	28	3	89	254		
46	Medmenham	Gartmore	192	3.7	220	56	10	4	4	94	271	61	General Consolidated	Henderson	114	3.5	111	89	5					

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Saturday November 23 1985

The future of manufacturing

WHATEVER ONE'S views about the appropriate policy response, it is hard to dissent from the argument set out in this week's *National Institute Economic Review*: "Any future which holds out the hope of rising prosperity for the economy as a whole and a move back to full employment must include a reversal in the decline of manufacturing industry." The *National Institute* accepts that there is nothing especially virtuous about manufacturing as opposed to services and in any case the statistical definitions of these two activities are becoming increasingly blurred. But the authors of the review are surely right to emphasise the need for "a technically sophisticated high productivity sector competing successfully in world markets."

There are some branches of British industry which already meet this test and have done so over many years: pharmaceuticals is an obvious case. Moreover, the upheaval of the past few years have had the effect of cutting out a great deal of uncompetitive capacity and of sharpening up the quality of management.

The need to survive forced companies to take a ruthlessly critical look at their methods and their activities, concentrating on those areas where they could achieve and sustain an internationally competitive and profitable position. There is a very long way to go both in the reform of working practices on the shop floor and in the performance of management generally. But the progress will not be maintained without the stimulus of competition. It may be that in Britain rivalry between companies in the same industry sometimes takes a more gentlemanly, even exclusive form than, say, in the US or Japan. Thus it is all the more important for the Government to develop a stronger competition policy and to fight vigorously for free trade within the European Community.

'Nowt for nowt'

On wage increases, for example, which were one of the main topics for discussion at the Conference of British Industry's conference earlier this week, changes in management behaviour are more likely to be brought about by external pressure than by conference resolutions. The principle of "nowt for nowt," which was strongly urged by the CBI's director general, is being put into practice, or at least attempted, by Ford UK. Under a two-year pay offer put to the unions this week, additional pay rises above a basic 3 per cent increase will be paid only in return for radical changes in working practices. It is no coincidence that Ford faces fierce competition throughout Europe not only from the five other EEC leaders but also from a Japanese

industry which has a clear advantage in manufacturing costs. Some of the most striking recent advances in manufacturing efficiency have been achieved by foreign-owned, especially Japanese, firms, and the *National Institute* is right to favour an inflow of capital leading to more foreign participation in the ownership and management of British industry. If foreign firms can demonstrate that production in Britain can be competitive in international markets, that in itself will do much to dispel the defeatism that has afflicted much of industry in recent years.

There is, of course, a big difference between the marginal branch factories set up by some foreign companies and the real commitment to the UK shown by firms like IBM. But, given the appropriate degree of commitment, foreign-owned companies can make a valuable contribution to upgrading the quality of management and enlarging the pool of skilled manpower.

Training

Industry has to put its own house in order and not look to government for solutions to its problems. But there is one field in which a partnership between government and industry is essential, and that is training. Deficiencies in the quality of skilled manpower, from senior manager through foreman to shopfloor operator, are probably the single most important cause of low British productivity. The *National Institute* suggests a major public initiative in training and retraining, comparable in scale to the Youth Training Scheme.

Yet the most important contribution the Government can make towards the revival of manufacturing industry is through fostering a climate in which entrepreneurial activity will flourish. Few would deny that the climate is far more favourable than it was six years ago. This is reflected in, among other things, the creation of more small businesses and in the continuing vigour for management buy-outs, whereby large corporations spin off unwanted subsidiaries to their managers; both categories have been well served by new sources of finance in the City.

The question now is whether the managers who have come through the last few years, and the new entrepreneurs who have established themselves, can raise their sights above the short-term pressure to survive and build large, internationally competitive enterprises. This requires not only stable Government policies and free access to markets in Europe and elsewhere, but also a lifting of spirits among businessmen, replacing the defeatism to which the *National Institute* referred with a long-term vision of what can be achieved in world markets.

FOR SEVERAL days this week, the 3,200-strong world press corps that flocked to Geneva for the superpower summit was less interested in *Star Wars* than "briefing wars."

As the two leading actors in the Geneva drama disappeared behind the scenes, the spotlight turned to the front men who had to try to explain what was going on.

Mr Larry Speakes, the chirpy but pugnacious White House spokesman, brushed aside suggestions that he was engaged in lower level superpower competition with Mr Leonid Zamyatin, his Soviet rival. The US had not come to Geneva to score public relations points, he said. Ha Ha.

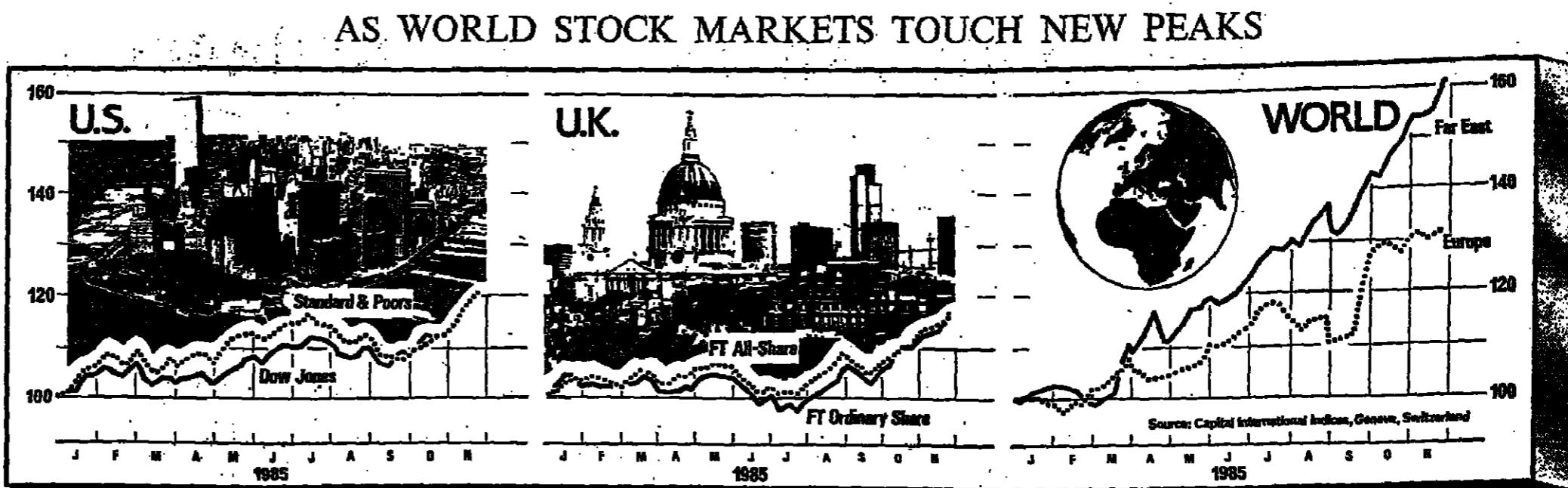
Although the character of their briefings was utterly different, at times the two men sounded almost the same. They also revealed the same controlled but bossy intolerance towards unwanted questions.

But while Mr Speakes had to cope with a White House press corps which needs to know what the President had for breakfast and what sort of underwear he was clothed in, Mr Zamyatin's problem was slightly different. Nobody at a Soviet briefing asked if Mr Gorbachev was wearing long johns.

Instead, he had to face unsubsidi and aggressive questions about Afghanistan and human rights. One woman harried him on why, as a simple Swiss tourist, she had been hassled in the Soviet Union by the KGB when the only weapon she was carrying was her smile. A surprisingly tolerant Mr Zamyatin disarmed her by replying that he could not understand how such a charming smile could have failed to draw a warm response in his country.

Mr Zamyatin is a curious exponent of the more open Soviet attitude to the media in evidence since Mr Mikhail Gorbachev became Soviet leader.

As head of the Communist Party's International Information Division since 1978, the 63-year-old Mr Zamyatin had already been chief spokesman for three General Secretaries



Brana Radovic

Wall Street whistles to Mr Volcker's tune

By Terry Dodsworth and Paul Taylor in New York

Fed chairman, standing by the side of Mr Baker, underlined this view.

"The basis of the rally in the last eight weeks has to be laid at the doorstep of Mr Volcker and his colleagues," says Mr Steve Einhorn, Goldman Sachs portfolio strategist. "Never has a Fed chairman been so explicit in signalling investors not to worry about rising interest rates nor the threat of recession."

When Wall Street closed 24-hours later, the Dow Jones industrial average was more than 18 points up on the day at 1,316.31. Since then, it has risen a further 120 points smashing a series of records on the way. This week the index stood at about double its low point in the recession trough of 1982, having jumped up through the 1,400 level in an enthusiastic trading burst on Thursday.

Interest rates in this period have not changed very much at the short end where the Fed exerts its influence through the day-to-day intervention in the money markets. But the difference in market sentiment is crystal clear in the behaviour of longer-term yields.

Encouraged by repeated hints from Mr Volcker that the Fed will remain "accommodative," that the recent rapid growth in M1, the basic money supply measure, is not of over-riding importance, and that inflation remains under control, investors have found the confidence to move into longer-dated paper.

Wall Street generally sees real GNP growth this year coming in around the 3 per cent level, and is looking for real growth of between 4 and 5 per cent in 1986. On the corporate earnings front, several Wall Street firms are predicting profit gains of up to 15 per cent next year, after a decline in the current 12 months of around 5 per cent.

Yet whatever the signs of current confidence, the stock market is not caught up in a frenzy of runaway enthusiasm. In sharp contrast to some of the earlier rallies

The first is a feeling that a controlled slide in the dollar can only be good for American industry, battered in the last four years by extremely competitively-priced imports and vanishing overseas markets. In the last nine weeks, dollar-sensitive stocks, like pharmaceuticals, have led the rally.

Wall Street generally sees real GNP growth this year coming in around the 3 per cent level, and is looking for real growth of between 4 and 5 per cent in 1986. On the corporate earnings front, several Wall Street firms are predicting profit gains of up to 15 per cent next year, after a decline in the current 12 months of around 5 per cent.

There is unease about the speculative element in current stock market ratings. Partly because of the constant whirl of the Wall Street rumour mill at present, several of the blue chip stocks in the Dow industrial average are today carrying potential bid premiums.

The effect of this has been

to magnify the underlying strength of the market—the broader NYSE composite index has only gained 3.9 per cent over the last nine weeks against an 11 per cent gain in the narrower Dow industrial average. In addition the blue chip index has been buoyed up by the continued withdrawal of equity due to the unprecedented wave of mega-mergers and share buybacks.

Analysts who peer at the charts rather than the economy have another reason to be concerned. The US stock market rally is already a geriatric at 39-months old, against an average in the last five recoveries of 31.4 months and the longest of 43.5 months back in the mid-1960s.

"We don't think we will make it much beyond the first quarter before we see a pronounced fall-back," says Mr Hans Schutzen, a technical analyst at Merrill Lynch. Mr Einhorn at Goldman Sachs also believes there is a danger the rally is topping out. But he argues that the Fed will continue to try and put a floor under any downturn.

"Mr Volcker has no choice. The world is in rather a precarious situation," he says. "When you work out loans outstanding in the developing countries, look at the farm credit system and the leverage in the US private sector—all of these things say the US economy has to keep growing. He is scared to death."

LONDON: 'NOBODY WANTS TO BE NOBODY'

HAS THE approach of Big Bang engulfed the London stock market in a wave of speculation? Or is its bullish mood explained by the fact that one stockbroker observed with tongue in cheek, "the closer Halley's comet approaches the earth, the higher does the market rise?"

These are two of the more entertaining theories being advanced for an apparently inexorable autumn surge in UK share prices.

The itch for equities, stirred by takeover speculation but spurred more fundamentally by economic growth and falling inflation, is not just being felt in Britain and the US. West German, French, Swiss, Italian, Dutch, Belgian, Austrian and Spanish share prices have all been setting records.

London's rally is testing the superlatives of the commentators and breaking new ground for virtually every available

index. The FT Ordinary Index of 30 blue chips breezed past the 1,100 mark on Wednesday and reached 1,135.4 yesterday, 25 per cent above the year's low of 911 reached in July. The All-Share Index of 739 shares reached 699.64, 27 per cent above its level of a year ago.

Almost every sector of the equity market has reaped the full benefit, with only a few casualties, such as electronics, failing to approach record levels.

Following the typical pattern of a raging bull market, UK investors have ignored factors which could at other times have damaged sentiment: realisation that short-term interest rates have little if any room to fall in 1986; surprisingly poor results from Beecham, the pharmaceuticals group, and the ousting of its chairman; the Government's adoption of economic policies seen in the City

as risky; and over-dependence on the market values of oil and the pound.

So what has driven them on? One factor may be increased foreign activity in the run up to the Big Bang city restructuring, but the real answer to the London stock market's current strength lies with the UK fund managers who control the billions of pounds invested in pension funds and insurance companies.

Their existing investments

are inflowing money on deposit or spreading it among a range of investments such as property, increasingly performance-minded portfolio managers have been ploughing it back into shares. They do not want their end-of-year figures to reveal that they have "lost out" on a lucrative stock market move.

This creates a buying spiral,

the more the market goes up, the more you want to buy. "Nobody wants to be the first to jump off the merry-go-round," says Mr Nicholas Knight, equity strategist at stockbroker James Capel.

The feverish mood has been heightened by an unprecedented wave of takeover speculation. With the £1.8bn contested bid by Elders IXL for Allied-Lyons, Britain's biggest ever bid, now under way, the stock market has realised that virtually any company could be a target.

On a more fundamental level,

lower inflation, with the expectation of further declines, has attracted buyers of shares and other financial assets, since their returns are less likely to be eroded and are better than traditional inflation refuges such as gold. In addition, the prospects are for consumer-led economic growth in corporate profits and dividends.

Many brokers are cautiously recommending their clients to take some profits and allow cash to accumulate rather than being poured into shares. Next year the Government's £4bn-a-year privatisation programme will remove some of the institutions' embarrassment of cash.

A "consolidation" seems inevitable at some stage. But when such a market momentum has developed, Halley's Comet probably provides as good a guide as any about when it will subside.

Alexander Nicoll

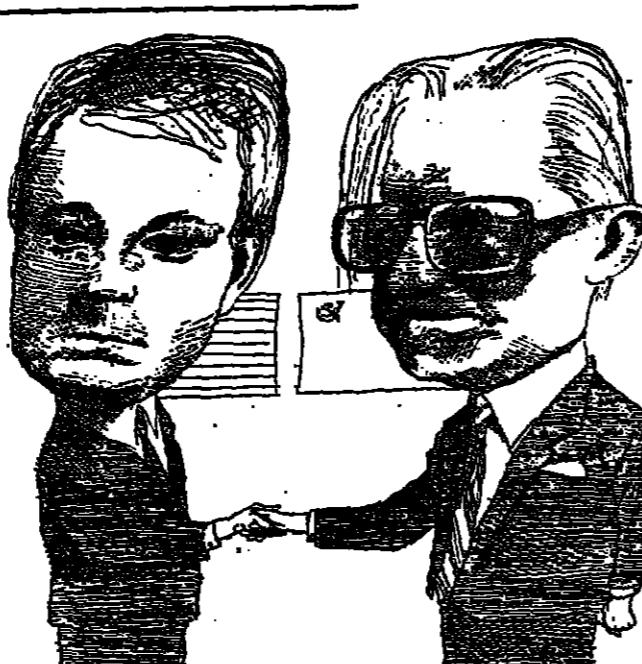
FIRST OFF THE MERRY-GO-ROUND

Men in the News

Larry Speakes and Leonid Zamyatin

Propaganda meets public relations in the briefings war

By Reginald Dale and Patrick Cockburn



It is a careful balancing act. Less important members of the White House press corps know that they need good relations with Mr Speakes. The more important (essentially the American TV networks and the major news agencies) know that Mr Speakes ultimately needs them more than they need him. Without television, Mr Reagan would arguably not be President of the US.

The traveling White House press, 240 of whom flew to Geneva on a chartered PanAm Boeing 747, recreates itself like a microcosmic amoeba whenever it leaves its cramped quarters in the west wing of the presidential mansion. The same pecking order is reproduced whether the President is in Strasbourg or South Korea. Mr Speakes gives the floor to the people he knows, and does not hide his disdain for foreigners.

Mr Speakes, who has a light deep southern accent, started a newspaper career in 1961 as editor and then managing editor of papers in Mississippi with such exotic names as the Oxford Eagle and the Bolivar Commercial. His newspapers, according to his official White House biography, won "top awards" for six straight years.

He worked for Presidents Nixon and Ford and then had a spell in public relations before signing on with Mr Reagan. If and when he leaves the White House, he is expected to be able to take his pick of plum jobs, unlike some of his predecessors who have been reduced to a humble status in Washington public relations.

His performances today are much more confident than when he first struggled to correct Presidential "mis-statements" four years ago. He has developed a style of banter which infuriates some of his captive White House clientele, but still allows him to win most of the barbed exchanges that he seems to regard as an integral part of his job.

But even when Mr Speakes was defending the "news black-out," which it seems clear that the Americans asked for, he left no doubt that he had been personally briefed by his Presi-



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Growth slackens at Japan's city banks

BY YOKO SHIBATA IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S 13 "city" or commercial banks improved their combined pre-tax profits by 1.2 per cent to Y545.5bn (\$27.6bn) in the half-year to September as slower growth resulted from a narrowing in rate spreads.

This followed cuts in May and July in long-term prime lending rates and an increasing dependence on costly market-oriented funding such as the country's newly introduced money market certificates and certificates of deposit.

Deposits reached Y123,113bn at the term end, up 3.6 per cent from the previous half-year to March and ahead by 2.9 per cent over the September 1984 half-year. This reflected increased deposits from big companies following a recovery in their business.

Loans by the 13 stood at Y177,745bn, up 5.5 per cent from the March half-year and 6 per cent above the September

1984 period. The gain was attributed to aggressive lending to medium and small-sized companies in an attempt to make up for the narrowing spreads between deposits and loans. At the same time, however, larger companies were turning to funds raised in the domestic and overseas capital markets.

Revenue from overseas operations advanced a comfortable 21.3 per cent to Y38.46bn, thanks to the sharp declines in interest rates abroad.

Operating profits before securities gains rose 27.1 per cent to Y480.85bn. This was assisted by a reduced level of special reserves for overseas credits and by the write-off of bad loans which amounted to Y30bn for the 13 banks. Dollar-denominated overseas liabilities were reduced by the yen's steep appreciation towards the end of September.

JAPANESE COMMERCIAL BANKS

Parent company results for half-year to Sept. 85 (Sept. 84)

	Revenue (Ybn)	Pre-tax profits (Ybn)	Net profits (Ybn)
Daiichi Kangyo	1,067 (1,087)	72.94 (63.23)	35.06 (29.05)
Sumitomo	977 (991)	80.17 (74.66)	40.67 (35.91)
Fuji	777 (1,022)	75.59 (68.91)	37.25 (32.04)
Swarts	889 (907)	81.44 (88.11)	34.15 (28.01)
Mitsubishi	883 (951)	60.51 (60.08)	35.64 (30.51)
Total	622 (641)	35.12 (37.50)	16.23 (17.63)
Tokyo	618 (721)	30.71 (44.51)	18.55 (13.69)
Mitsui	603 (664)	32.47 (34.60)	18.24 (17.07)
Taiyo Kobe	519 (509)	21.85 (22.15)	11.43 (9.10)
Daiwa	358 (334)	20.95 (16.52)	7.58 (5.56)
Kyowa	334 (308)	22.80 (16.48)	9.25 (6.59)
Sumitomo	305 (306)	17.05 (18.51)	7.58 (7.04)
Hokkaido	—	—	—
Takushoku	263 (274)	13.88 (12.85)	5.49 (4.67)

Bank creditors cool on Pan-Electric rescue plan

BY CHRIS SHERWELL IN SINGAPORE

BANK CREDITORS of Pan-Electric Industries, the financially troubled Singapore company, failed yesterday to respond to a rescue package put forward by Mr Tan Koon Swan, the Malaysian entrepreneur who holds a 22.6 per cent stake in the company through Sigma International.

Trading in Pan-Electric, Sigma and a third quoted company, Growth Industrial Holdings, which holds 31.6 per cent of Pan-Electric, was suspended earlier this week after Pan-Electric defaulted on a \$87.5m (US\$61m) loan repayment.

Pan-Electric has total debts of \$840m, and its default stunned the stock market which has seen the Straits Times index shed almost 30 points since the

close on Monday. A steering committee representing 30 banks, most of them foreign, was formed at the fifth day of talks last night.

Mr Tan is widely expected to win a protracted battle for the leadership of Malaysia's main Chinese political party this weekend, and for him the Pan-Electric crisis could not have come at a worse time.

Partly because the reverberations of a collapse would spread so wide, hopes have been pinned on Mr Tan bailiing out the company, despite his small shareholding and lack of direct involvement in its management.

Pan-Electric's bank creditors, concerned specifically about the debt repayment, the company has failed to meet, have apparently found it difficult to the rescue proposals.

They sought an opinion yesterday from the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the island state's bank regulatory authority, which has so far remained largely on the sidelines.

LADBROKE INDEX
1,129.133 (+16)
Based on FT Index
Tel: 01-427 4411

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option	CALLS			PUTS		
	Jan.	Apr.	July	Jan.	Apr.	July
S.P. (*606)	500 118 128	—	—	112 6 5	—	—
525 68 80	22	25	25	5 10	10	10
530 68 74	47	40	40	45 45	45	45
Gold (*513)	480 110 120	127	118 5 10	10 10 10	—	—
460 80 90	27	25	25	47	45	45
455 80 84	37	45	55	64	72	72
Courtaulds (*185)	150 55 57	—	—	112 5 5	—	—
140 43 47	50	52	52	55 5	57	57
160 25 32	52	52	52	55 5	57	57
180 15 19	19	10	10	15	15	15
Corn. Union (*230)	800 44 52	—	—	112 5 5	—	—
220 28 35	55	55	55	55 5	55	55
240 12 15	31	31	31	31 3	31	31
260 6 12	21	24	24	25 25	25	25
Distillers (*490)	460 52 65	25	25	17 22	22	22
500 50 63	53	50	50	57 42	42	42
550 15 23	55	55	55	67 68	68	68
G.E.C. (*186)	140 58 68	—	—	112 5 5	—	—
160 52 62	50	52	52	55 5	55	55
180 17 25	25	24	24	10 12	12	12
200 15 18	15	15	15	15 15	15	15
Grand Met. (*398)	250 125 125	—	—	112 5 5	—	—
270 100 107	117	115	115	15 15	15	15
290 35 42	72	72	72	57 57	57	57
300 74 —	—	—	92	—	—	—
Land Sec. (*328)	250 53 55	—	—	112 5 5	—	—
260 43 53	53	53	53	55 5	55	55
280 13 19	13	13	13	20 20	20	20
Marks & Sp. (*189)	150 62 66	—	—	112 5 5	—	—
160 52 55	52	52	52	55 5	55	55
180 13 15	15	15	15	15 15	15	15
200 5 13	13	13	13	17 20	20	20
Shell Trans. (*686)	550 52 62	73	22	27 27	27	27
700 52 60	40	20	20	45 50	50	50
750 5 13	13	10	10	70 70	70	70
Trafalgar (*394)	350 57 63	68	118 5 10	14 14	14	14
360 50 58	56	46	50	55 50	50	50
390 13 23	23	18	18	25 25	25	25
Option	Feb.	May	Aug.	Feb.	May	Aug.
SAT India (*285)	260 40 47	—	—	4 6	11	14
280 22 35	42	42	42	20 25	27	27
300 15 22	32	20	20	25 25	25	25
330 5 12	—	—	45	45	45	45
Barclays (*450)	160 110 115	—	—	4 5	7	—
190 90 95	52	72	72	12 12	12	12
220 45 55	37	35	35	35 37	37	37
240 45 55	37	35	35	35 37	37	37
Brit. Aero (*463)	350 145 150	—	—	1 1	—	—
350 85 95	95	95	95	10 10	10	10
420 75 85	85	85	85	10 10	10	10
420 35 45	67	67	67	20 25	25	25
460 35 45	67	67	67	20 25	25	25
Brit. Telecom (*304)	150 49 54	24	20	10 12	5	4
150 29 32	35	26	26	9 11	11	11
200 12 15	15	15	15	15 15	15	15
220 14 18	23	15	15	15 17	17	17
Imperial Gr. (*217)	160 64 67	—	—	112 5 5	—	—
180 45 52	45	45	45	5 5	5	5
200 27 32	32	25	25	5 5	5	5
220 14 18	18	15	15	15 17	17	17
LASMO (*256)	240 38 49	45	40	10 16	16	16
240 28 37	37	42	42	10 16	16	16
240 18 25	25	30	30	30 30	30	30
300 11 18	18	15	15	15 15	15	15
LONPHO (*187)	140 57 60	45	45	112 5 5	—	—
180 37 45	45	45	45	5 5	5	5
180 27 32	32	27	27	15 18	18	18
200 12 15	15	17	17	15 18	18	18

OFS merger will boost dividends

ANGLO AMERICAN Corporation yesterday took the wraps off its Orange Free State mining merger which, when implemented, will create the world's largest gold mining company. After almost a year of negotiations with the South African authorities and in-house evaluations of the individual mines, four mines are to be merged to form one operating company, Free State Consolidated Gold Mines (Freegold). This in turn will be controlled by two pyramids.

In Johannesburg, mining analysts were agreed that the merged terms were among the most complex ever seen. The four companies are Free State Gold, President Brand, President Steyn and Western Holdings.

According to Mr Guy Young, the managing director of Anglo's OFS gold and uranium division, the merger will provide for the more efficient utilisation of existing shafts and treatment plants, and a more effective deployment of labour.

The four

CURRENCIES and MONEY

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Dollar continues to fall

The dollar lost ground yesterday on fears that central banks were keen to see the dollar depreciate still further from its current level. Confidence was further eroded by suggestions that US interest rates would fall in the next month or so. Against this background and in the absence of any positive factors to underpin the US unit, the general trend was to push the dollar lower.

After a brief rise to DM 2.5890, the dollar finished at DM 2.5760, its lowest closing level since March 1984 and down from DM 2.5930 on Thursday. Against the yen it fell to its worst closing level since January 1983 at Y201.40 compared with Y202 previously. Elsewhere it slipped to SF 2.1060 from SF 2.1230

£ IN NEW YORK

	Nov. 22	Prev. close
2 Spot	£1.4855-1.4856	£1.4856-1.4876
1 month	£1.4850-1.4840	£1.4840-1.4830
3 months	£1.4820-1.4820	£1.4820-1.4820
6 months	£1.4805-1.4805	£1.4805-1.4805
12 months	£1.4800-1.4800	£1.4800-1.4800

Forward premiums and discounts apply to the US dollar.

and FF 7.8450 from FF 7.9025. On Bank of England figures, the dollar's exchange rate index fell to 127.5 from 128.0.

Sterling benefited from the dollar's decline and was also helped by the relatively high level of UK interest rates, firmer oil prices and recent interest in the UK equity market. Its

exchange rate index rose to 80.1 from 79.9, having opened at 80.1. Against the dollar it rose to \$1.4835-1.4845, a rise of 1.2c and its best closing level since March 1984. Against the D-mark it improved to DM 3.7450 from DM 3.7400 and Y293.75 compared with Y291.25. Elsewhere it rose to 11.4050 from FF 11.3890 and was unchanged against the Swiss franc at SF 3.04.

Gold rose \$24 an ounce from Thursday's close in the London bullion market yesterday to opened at \$379.32-379.42 and added between a high of \$382.32 and a low of \$365.32. Gold tended to follow platinum with renewed interest in the latter metal promoting short covering in gold ahead of the weekend.

STERLING INDEX

8.30 a.m.	80.1	80.0
9.00 a.m.	80.1	80.0
10.00 a.m.	80.1	80.1
11.00 a.m.	80.1	80.1
Noon	80.1	80.2
1.00 p.m.	80.0	80.0
2.00 p.m.	80.1	80.0
3.00 p.m.	80.0	80.0
4.00 p.m.	80.1	79.9

DOLLAR SPOT — FORWARD AGAINST DOLLAR							
Nov. 22	Day's spread	Close	One month	%	Three months	%	p.a.
UK:							
Ireland	1.4420-1.4425	1.4355-1.4425	0.94-1.41c pm	3.51	1.22-1.45pm	2.33	
Canada	1.3747-1.3770	1.3760-1.3770	0.70-1.41pm	2.76	1.24-1.40pm	2.61	
Nethrd.	2.8925-2.8919	2.8982-2.8988	0.50-1.55pm	2.33	1.60-1.55pm	2.17	
Belgium	52.05-62.32	52.05-62.75	1.2c-1.4c dis	—	4.40-4.80s	—	0.28
W. Ger.	2.5700-2.5800	2.5700-2.5765	0.80-1.20pm	3.95	2.22-2.50pm	3.56	
Portugal	162.40-163.40	162.40-163.40	200-200c dis	—	22.15-650-1300c	—	24.00
Spain	158.35-159.22	158.35-159.22	100-140c dis	—	8.05-250-360c	—	8.17
Norway	1.7327-1.7402	1.7400-1.7401	11-12 lire dis	—	7.91-27-29dis	—	8.28
France	7.9425-7.9580	7.9425-7.9585	0.50-0.55c dis	—	0.84-2.20-2.45dis	—	1.14
Sweden	7.7445-7.7479	7.7445-7.7479	3-4c lire dis	—	5.79-10-10dis	—	6.14
Japan	20.10-20.10	20.10-20.10	0.01-0.02c pro	—	0.03-0.12-0.08pm	—	0.30
Switzerland	2.1030-2.1180	2.1030-2.1180	0.50-0.55c pro	—	5.07-2.20-2.15pm	—	4.11

1 UK and Ireland are quoted in US currency. Forward premiums and discounts apply to the US dollar and not to the individual currency. Belgian rate is for convertible francs. Financial franc 62.45-32.50.

CURRENCY RATES

Nov. 22	Bank of England	Special Drawing Rights	European Currency Unit
U.S. £	0.749000	0.901011	
Canadian \$	1.176356		
Austrian Sch.	84.84-180		
Danish Kr.	7.101187	7.953369	
D. mark.	2.20915		
Swiss Fr.	2.516250	2.546225	
U.S. \$	0.714824		
Belgian Fr.	1.124-1.13		
Spanish Fr.	2.225555		
Swedish Kr.	10.4-10.5		
Swiss Fr.	2.292234	1.869008	
Greek Drach.	204	184.9659	130.122
Iraqi Dint.	0.905000	0.714821	

*CS/SDR rate for November 21: 1.4810.

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Nov. 22	Bank of England	Moroccan	Swiss	Yuan	Change %
U.S. £	0.749000	0.901011			
Canadian \$	1.176356				
Austrian Sch.	84.84-180				
Danish Kr.	7.101187	7.953369			
D. mark.	2.20915				
Swiss Fr.	2.516250	2.546225			
U.S. \$	0.714824				
Belgian Fr.	1.124-1.13				
Spanish Fr.	2.225555				
Swedish Kr.	10.4-10.5				
Swiss Fr.	2.292234	1.869008			

Moroccan: Guinean: average 1985-1982=100. Bank of England index (base average 1975=100).

OTHER CURRENCIES

Nov. 22	Bank of England	Moroccan	Swiss	Yuan	Change %
U.S. £	0.749000	0.901011			
U.S. \$	0.714824				
Canadian \$	1.176356				
Austrian Sch.	84.84-180				
Danish Kr.	7.101187	7.953369			
D. mark.	2.20915				
Swiss Fr.	2.516250	2.546225			
U.S. \$	0.714824				
Belgian Fr.	1.124-1.13				
Spanish Fr.	2.225555				
Swedish Kr.	10.4-10.5				
Swiss Fr.	2.292234	1.869008			

* Selling rate.

MONEY MARKETS

UK rates unchanged

Interest rates were mostly unchanged in London yesterday in very quiet trading. Attention focused on the very large shortage of day-to-day credit available from the Bank of England, more help than the published forecast of borrowed money found at 12 per cent after touching a low of 6 per cent. Rates had opened at 11.12 per cent. Three-month eligible bank bills were bid at 11.14 per cent, also unchanged from Thursday.

The Bank of England forecast a shortage of around £100m, with factors affecting the market including maturing Treasury bills and a take-up of Treasury bills together draining £281m and unwindng gilt repurchase agreements a further £280m. There was also a rise in the notional circulation of £260m. These were partly offset by Exchequer transactions which added £280m and UK clearing banks base lending rate 11.12 per cent since July 30

UK clearing banks base lending rate 11.12 per cent forward since July 30. This comprised purchases of £104m of eligible bank bills at 11.12 per cent, £286m in band 2 at 11.14 per cent and £226m in band 4 at 11.14 per cent. Late assistance amounted to £23m, making a total of £1.421m.

Nov. 22	Short term	7 Days notice	1 Month	Three Months	Six Months	One Year
U.S. £	1.15-1.17	1.15-1.16	1.15-1.16	1.15-1.16	1.15-1.16	1.15-1.16
U.S. \$	0.688	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15
DM	0.267	0.588	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78
YEN	3.415	4.967	12.79	10.00	10.43	10.43
FF	0.277	1.375	3.284	2.67	2.67	2.67
SF	0.337	0.475	1.324	0.87	0.87	0.87
DM	0.					

INSURANCE, OVERSEAS & MONEY FUNDS

Nicol	
Ind. Ind.	25
Ind. Ind.	26
Ind. Ind.	27
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Scotia Fund Management Ltd	100-102 St. George St., Edinburgh EH2 2ZK	031-225 2252	15.0	
Standard Life Assurance Company	3 George St., Edinburgh EH2 2ZK	031-225 2252	15.0	
Standard Life Assurance Group	30 Allianz House, Hornton			
Life Funds				
Equity Fund	100-102			
Equity Fund	101-112			
Fixed Interest Fund	102-103			
Property Fund	103-104			
International Fund	104-105			
North American Fund	105-106			
Far East Fund	106-107			
Corporate Fund	107-108			
Income Fund	108-109			
Pension Fund	109-110			
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OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS

Actibonds Investment Fund SA	57 rue Notre Dame, Luxembourg	Tel: 47971
Actibonds Inc.	104145	
Aditya Investment		
Poststrasse 708, 8000 Munich 1		Tel: 524269
Address	DE4221.07	23.75
Austria	DE4213.29	18.88
France	DE4252.55	10.25
Finland	DE4275.83	10.22
Alibay Fund Management Limited		
PO Box 73, St Helier, Jersey		0504-73035
Address	JE2774.49	281.40
Attney 5 Pl. (C.I.)		-3.01
Next deposit November 25		23.77
Alliance Capital Management Inst. Inc.		
143 Upper Grosvenor St, London, W1		01-993 94676
Chemical	£10.53	11.49
Home Care	£11.28	—
H. Gandy Bond	£11.17	11.82
H. Yield Bond	£11.77	—
International	£11.56	—
Int. Tech.	£11.82	—
Other	£11.41	—
Mortgage	£11.93	11.51
Services	£11.94	—
Technology	£11.97	11.77
Alliance International Policy Reserve		
Subscription Oct 11-17, 0.001276 (6.777%)		
Allied Banker International Fund Mys.		
Allied Dealer House, Douglas (C.I.)		04-23411
A.D.I. Managed (C.I.)	\$2,345	0.3674
A.D.I. Mid (C.I.)	\$2,259	0.3705
A.D.I. Worldwide (C.I.)	\$2,355	0.377
A.D.I. Wtth Amer (C.I.)	\$21,332	0.321
For East (C.I.)	\$2,995	0.420
A.D.I. Wtth Paf (C.I.)	\$2,244	0.360
Arbuthnot Securities (C.I) Ltd (A)(c)(1)		
PO Box 428, St. Helier, Jersey		0504 78037
Address	JE1.069	1.125
Cart. Secs. Inc.	741	—
Very Accnt. May 25	NI195	22.85
Report For May 25	NI179	—
Report For May 26	NI179	—

INSURANCE, OVERSEAS & MONEY FUNDS

3-month call rates	
Industrials	P Marks & Spencer 13
Allied-Lyons	28 Midland Bk 35
BAT	26 NEI 10
BOC Grp	27 Nat West Bk 55
BSR	8 P & O DM 35
BTR	33 Plessey 14
Babcock	13 Poly Pack 21
Barclays	33 Racal Elec 15
Bretham	39 RHM 12
Boots	50 Rankin Org Ord 25
Bowaters	18 Reed Instl 60
Brit Aerospace	34 Sears 11
Brit. Telecom	17 Tesco 16
Brunel (L)	45 Thales EMI 34
Demax	11.21 12.21
Money Acc	11.05 12.15
J. Henry Schroder Waggs & Co Ltd	
Enterprise House, Portsmouth	
Special Acc	11.00 12.20
Over £10,000	11.25 12.40
Western Trust & Savings Limited	
The Moneycentre, Plymouth PL1 5SE	
Hot Lnt Ctr Acc	11.49 12.61

Financial Times Saturday November 23 1985

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

WEEKEND FT

Saturday November 23 1985

• MARKETS • FINANCE & THE FAMILY • PROPERTY • TRAVEL • MOTORING • DIVERSIONS • HOW TO SPEND IT • BOOKS • ARTS • TV

I SHOULD have guessed there was something different about this journey when the girl turned up with the two stuffed penguins. There we were on the platform at Paddington Station when a bright young thing from the public relations company emerged from the crowds with two beady-eyed heads poking from the top of a plastic carrier bag. "Just stand over there," she said. Click went the cameras. The British Rail man manoeuvred a poster into position. "Passengers for the Falklands should catch the 15.35 and change at Swindon." Click.

The Falkland Islands are moving into the next phase of the media game. Tourism and promotion. There was no disguising my own prescribed role in that game. To be whisked off to the South Atlantic and shown the touristic glories of the islands; to tell the world that there is more to the Falkland Islands than minefields, sheep and penguins; to be one more cog in the machine that is trying to make something of an economy Britain preferred to forget in an era before the Argies, and many in Britain would prefer to forget now.

Soon they are to start selling tours taking in the new lodges that are being built; lodges that will sit in some of the world's most remote and endearing islands, where penguins and seals, wild geese and tiny wrens scamper up to visitors. Fully inclusive package tours will cost upwards of £2,000 a time—assuming present arguments over the air fares can be settled.

At the moment the Falkland Islands have an image problem. The war (or if you deal in Foreign Office euphemisms, the conflict) took place in the early southern winter. The images that went around the world in that campaign are the ones that have stuck. It is as if the Western Isles were only known by their November climate. In the minds of European and US potential tourists, the Falkland Islands are a tiny gathering of inhospitable outcrops, part bog, part rock and thick with penguins and sheep.

The facts are somewhat different. By UK standards the islands are, for a start, huge—five times larger in land area than Orkney and Shetland, combined and almost as large as Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk together. It takes an hour or more to fly from Port Stanley to some of the islands. There are broad sweeping sandy bays, high cliffs, mountains, rolling hills and gentle brooks. I have fished for trout in the rivers and mullet in the inlets; reached for the sun cream on warm afternoons of horseback explorations; and layed in the grass to be disturbed by an inquisitive penguin pecking at my walking boots.

Islands famous for their foul weather have less rainfall a year than Sussex and a lot less snow than Derbyshire. It may not usually be as warm as New York, but it is never as cold as New York.

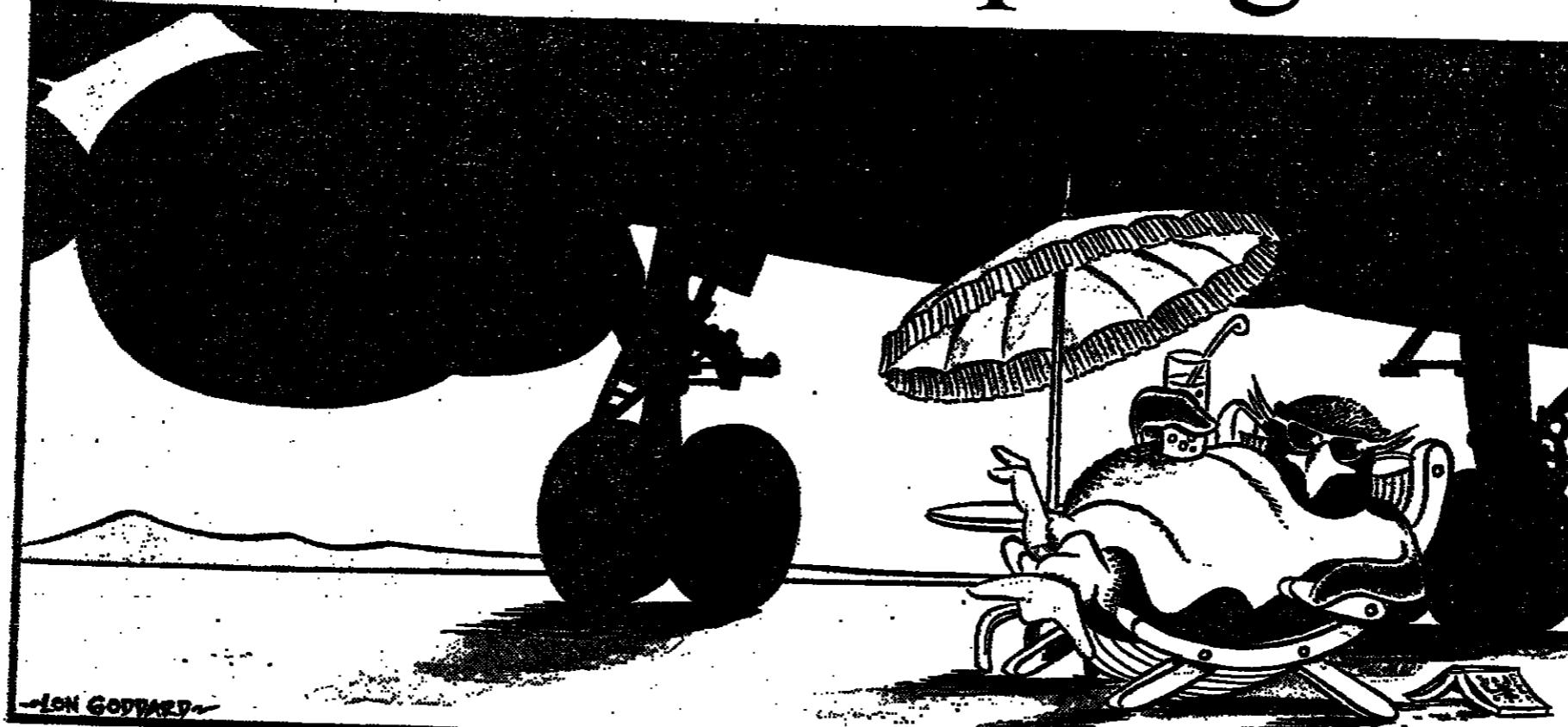
Another aspect of the image difficulties is that much of the reporting is done, still under military hospitality. By far the greatest proportion of the troops, navy personnel and airmen (and, recently, airwomen) who visit the islands see very little of them. For the average serviceman the time and money required for a flight to see rockhopper colonies or far seal beaches is prohibitive. Their tales are of hard work and a lack of bright lights.

For the moment you board British Airways 747, on charter to the RAF. By next month it will be TriStars, bought from Pan Am and operated by the RAF. In a little under nine hours you are in Ascension, a volcanic outcrop with a breeze block transit lounge and expensive pre-stamped envelopes at the Naafi counter.

And so up again. It's daylight now and strong winds buffet us from time to time. The films roll on and on. And at

Tourists are to be part of the economic future of the Falkland Islands. Arthur Sandles has been there to investigate the problems.

Packages to penguins



• JON GODDARD

Last there are some grey shapes on the horizon. The islands are there.

No military secrets are revealed, by saying that what is going on at Mount Pleasant Airport is astonishing. Here is no little air-strip to serve a small island community. Most British and European provincial airports are minnows compared with what is being built at Mount Pleasant.

All the locals I spoke to talked in wonder at the development but in perplexity at its size. No-one seems to know exactly what the UK Government has in mind for this southern outpost except that there is a total faith in that Government's determination to stay.

I met no resident, as opposed to contractor Briton, who thought anything other than that the islands would remain British for as long as the UK had the political power to hold them. "The one thing we do know," said one farmer, "is that Britain will never let us down. Look what happened when the Argies came—everyone rushed to help. They worked round the clock and there were, no strike."

From here, some "solutions" mooted in London take on a different perspective. It is not only the South Americans who might have objections to re-opening air routes. There is considerable local feeling about any links with the continent to the west, even if the economic benefits would be huge.

"I don't care what tourists you bring," said one hotel worker. "But don't expect me to be nice to the Argies." To everyone else, however, they seem willing to be extremely nice and—another image dispelled—commercially aware.

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation has a budget of some £30m from the UK Government which will be

spent over a five-year period to put the helpers and their community onto a more realistic base—although what precisely that is again no one seems certain. The money is being spent in three basic areas: agriculture and fisheries, light industry (but only that associated with the land and the sea), and tourism. Hand in hand with progress on these fronts will come a growth in population; both through immigration and a halting of emigration by making life on the islands more attractive to the bright and the young.

The difficulties are considerable. A community of less than 2,000 is simply not large enough to sustain many services. No-one in his right mind is going to set up as a chicken farmer or photographic processor with so few potential customers. As long as the islands' present isolation remains, with the only air and sea links via the UK, many export possibilities are out of the question.

At first glance it seems shocking that most of the millions of sheep carcasses that the Falklands farmers produce end up being dumped on remote islands to be eaten by birds—but what else can they do with them?

The military authorities refuse to sign any contracts which might provide a medium-term base for new concerns. Indeed, a plan for a dry cleaning operation, franchised from Sketchley's, has problems because the military suddenly said it would not give the new enterprise any custom.

The military and the civilian populations are much less involved with each other than one might expect and, once away from Stanley and into "Camp" (any part of the islands outside Stanley) the

only sign of Fortress Falkland is the occasional buzz of jet or helicopter and a view of warships on the water.

There are, of course, the usual oddities of service/civilian relationships. The military has a great deal of "waste" which the locals find perfectly serviceable. The services are wary of developing a local trade that could lead to military items falling off the back of a lorry so all military waste is further damaged, supposedly beyond use—Land Rovers have their lamps and radiators destroyed by sledge hammer, waterproof jackets are slit from collar to hem. Somehow the islanders rescue and repair them. "If there is one specialist business which every islander knows, it is how to keep a Land Rover on the road whatever its age and condition," they say.

I heard a story, first hand, from a host who had been told by his high ranking army dinner guest that the military never threw any usable food away—and meanwhile tucked into iceberg lettuce that had been liberated from the army dump that morning.

In the wake of the war and the updated Shackleton Report the Falkland Islands are moving fast, over and beyond the vast airport and its 35-mile link road with Stanley. Some of the larger estates are being broken up and sold off into smaller (if 25,000 acres is smaller) units. Small plots of 50 acres, are being offered to entrepreneurs for light industry and specialist agriculture. One project, for example, aims to grow salad crops using hydroponic methods.

There are two major obstacles to such developments. The islands are actually short of labour and there is a desperate need for housing. "Some of the schemes that are suggested are just silly," says

Simon Armstrong, general manager of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation. "We file them under 'foolies'. These include schemes that take advantage of a non-existent pool of low cost labour.

Housing seems at times an insoluble problem. The local Government has funds for soft mortgages, but these are not unlimited. The local bank, the Standard and Chartered, is praised for its efficiency but criticised for its unwillingness to lend long, or even medium term, against local security—thus no mortgages. Such is the confidence of the bank in the future that it is insisting on Government guarantees, which are not forthcoming.

There is a queue of Britons wanting to move to the Falklands but without housing such migration is out of the question. Instead, various schemes are being tried which are not necessarily labour intensive and which place any housing demand in camp rather than in Stanley. Salmon farming is being tried, the cost of feed circumvented, the locals hope, with a scheme developed with the help of the Aquaculture Institute of the University of Stirling that will use local mutton, mullet and krill to fatten the fish.

There is enormous pressure from the islanders for a 200-mile fishing limit around the islands. Well over 100 deep-sea fishing vessels have been seen in Falkland waters this year, ships from Poland, Japan, Russia and Cuba among them. Licensing these vessels would, it is said, produce £10-£15m a year for the islands. Officially, when it says anything, the Foreign Office suggests the cost of policing would be too high. Unofficially, the real problem is political. Imagine

the furore if a Cuban ship, unlicensed, were arrested and then claimed to have a license from the Argentine Government.

Tourism provides a much more immediate prospect for revenue, even if communications are once more a major drawback. The bird and sea mammal life is astonishingly abundant in the Falkland summer months. In just a few days I have seen five types of penguins, king and rock cormorants, huge albatrosses, the darting red breasted mewhawk, black necked geese, red-backed hawks, striated caracaras, teal and wagtails, turkey vultures, the ubiquitous Upland Geese and, well the list goes on. Dolphins leap in the bays, sea lions and elephant seals lounge on the beaches.

For the moment, and for the foreseeable future, you rely entirely on local hospitality to see these things. There are hotels in Stanley, the white painted Upland Goose and the less famous but wonderfully hospitable Malvina House among them, but elsewhere at the moment you stay in private farm houses. For the most part these are large, friendly and remarkably warm (heat, mainly from the abundant peat, is not a problem). You are ferried around by Land Rover over land which shows no sign of road. Between the islands you travel by the Islander Aircraft of FIGAS, the government-owned airline, or sometimes by Bristow helicopter.

By next summer (theirs, not ours) the additional lodge style accommodation will be appearing at Volunteer Point on East Falkland, and possibly on New Island, on the western edge of West Falkland and perhaps the most scenic of the islands. At Port Howard, a little settlement in the fold of the hills, with its pretty flowering hedges and neat fields with dairy cattle around the painted houses looks at first glance like a Devon hamlet; and on Pebble Island old farm houses are being converted to hold visitors.

There is considerable local alarm at the prospect of a tourist "invasion". Few people locally seemed very keen on the cruise ships that come in from time to time, particularly when they visit small islands with sensitive bird colonies on them. Heavy tourist traffic could be extremely destructive. A tourist that provokes a nest bird into flight (or, in the case of penguins, into scamper) simply allows the cruising skuas to move in and take the eggs.

At the levels presently envisaged by the FTDC, which is being advised by the English Tourist Board, the trade should be fairly light—perhaps 2,000-3,000 people a year. There is no question that the cost of the trips is well out of line with rival offerings. Two weeks in Bird Island on the Seychelles, a trip just about the same distance as Falkland, can be bought for £1,400 in peak season, which is about the going rate for a wild life trip to South America and rather more than many safaris in Africa.

The big problem is the flight. The Royal Air Force is not a commercial organisation and is not open to much discussion on tour operator discounts. It is therefore charging tour companies more for a return flight to Falkland Island than it costs to fly round the world on some airlines. The situation would be transformed by the introduction of flights from Santiago (Chile) or, of course, anywhere in Argentina.

For the moment, however, that seems unlikely. So, is it worth it? On my way down, infected by the pre-publicity and in the company of those army and air-force personnel for whom it was near banishment, I doubted it. When the time came to leave, however, my mind had been changed. Perhaps, after all, like the penguins, just a few of us will migrate to the Falklands in October.

The Long View

Even experts are sometimes right

When every active investor tells you to keep your nerve and ignore the experts, it is time to think very hard about whether they may be right, says Anthony Harris



sis who were the winners in 1978.

The experts got the dollar wrong because they failed to understand that in a world dominated by capital movements, a country which is borrowing heavily from overseas will tend to have an overvalued currency; this is now the conventional wisdom.

More recently, though, a second theory has gained more ground: that Mr Paul Volcker really caused the whole conviction by imposing a monetary policy which was so tight that it created an international dollar shortage. Forget the money numbers; look at the exchange rate and the level of real interest rates, and it looks like sense.

This is important at the moment not so much for the light it casts on the dollar as for what it says about equities.

The general consensus at the moment is that the main force driving up equities is easy money. The Americans have relaxed, because they are worried about debt and the over-valued dollar. We have stopped trying to control the broadly-defined money supply because the efforts to control it didn't work. Easy money makes bull markets, as your grandfather could tell you.

Very well then; if you believe that the monetary steam will not be cut off, so that the long-term market correction will be allowed to stick, the question about the market reduces to one fundamental: is the risk premium now available in the fact that equities yield half a point or so more than indexed gilts adequate? Here the chartists cannot help you at all, and the experts only a little. Assessing the threat of imprudent lending, political change, the oil run-down, and the rest is partly subjective. Personally, I tend to be cautious. Perhaps that is why

investors cannot, of course, afford to despise any doctrine which leads to large profits, as contrarianism often has—the so-called "contrarian paradox", for example, had a wonderful ride for some three years, before the central bankers decided to force the market to show a proper respect for expert opinion. All the same, it is sometimes spectacularly wrong. When the universal expert opinion that London equities were badly oversold in 1974 was finally proved right, the index rose vertically for six weeks, and doubled before it was possible to find any serious sellers.

What is more—and what I have yet to see any contrarian confess—the doctrine is actually bound to go wrong from time to time, on its own logic. This must happen whenever contrarian thinking becomes orthodox; because once it is orthodox it is itself discounted in market prices, and cannot offer any guide to their future movement.

Times like this, then, call for what I will christen the counter-contrarian strategy. When every active investor tells you you must keep your nerve and ignore the experts, it is time to think very hard about whether the experts may not after all be right. This is bad news for lazy thinkers, because it means

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Caution intrudes as the good times keep rolling

THE MARKET continues to roar ahead with the FT 30 Share gliding effortlessly past 1,100 on Wednesday and the All-Share Index sitting very close to 700 last night. With the throttle apparently jammed wide open, it may seem a little perverse to talk about a reversal, but while most analysts feel reasonably complacent about the market on a one year view the morning post still contains more notes of caution than optimism for the immediate future.

Given the indifferent market of the first nine months of the year, few fund managers, with an eye on their performance tables, are going to forego the market when it is running so strongly. So equities are being pushed along by a good weight of money and even with the Cable and Wireless sale and rights issue coming next month, rising around £200m, there is little evidence of institutional liquidity becoming a problem.

Nevertheless, on fundamental terms the market looks dear. Ratings are at their highest level since the bull market of 13 years ago and prospects for corporate profitability next year are not the stuff to fuel a continued rise in share prices. Profits, overall, are unlikely to grow by much more than 10 per cent.

Fears that there might be a short term setback around the corner are unlikely to rattle fund managers sitting on billions to invest somewhere but other investors who can take a more aggressive view to their trading could well be tempted to take some profits — even if it does mean leaving a little bit for the next man.

Over in the drinks sector things are hyper-active. Elders IXL has popped out its offer document in support of 25p a share bid for Allied-Lyons. Scottish & Newcastle re-launched a bid for Matthew Brown, this time worth £125m, following Monopolies Commission clearance. Distillers announced some amazingly buoyant figures and Whitbread's interim profits proved to be a tonic for the whole sector.

The Elders offer is a non-starter at this level and may be just a shot to test the reaction of the Monopolies Commission though on grounds of competition it is hard to develop a case for reference. S&N's bid is a different brew altogether, designed to be a knockout punch and already declared final with an option for a rethink if another bidder materialises — a remote but not impossible eventuality given that the Commission appears to rule the other regions out of bounds for predatory national brewers.

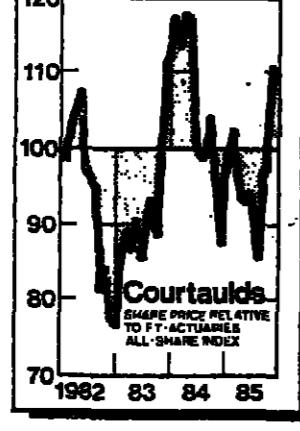
S&N is offering 16 of its shares for every five Brown with a cash alternative of 54p. It seems a more than fair price on an exit multiple of 26 times

London

price values each Brown pub at around £200,000 a go, throwing the breweries for nothing. That compares with £300,000 to build a new pub.

Though it is questionable whether S&N can make sufficient return on Brown's assets to justify the purchase, its half time figures, which came out with the bid, showed a 15 per cent increase in profits to £43m which is a fair performance given the poor summer, but assuming the full year comes out at £75m that is still no more than a 12 per cent net return on equity.

Anyway the bidder is not yet



assured of success even though it has amassed a stake of over 26 per cent. Brown's board is resisting and Whitbread Investment Trust and Britannic Assurance with over 9 per cent of the equity slice have declared their opposition to S & N. Small shareholders might decide that it is time to sell in the market rather than run the risk of the bid being beached.

There is, of course, no bid on the table for Distillers as yet but James Gulliver's Argyll Group may well wade into battle after December 2 when it will be freed from the Take-over Panel's ruling to delay. And there is nothing like the threat of a bid to concentrate management's mind, so the market was well primed for some sparkling figures from the whisky group this week.

Interim profits came out 54 per cent higher at £124.3m pre-tax and the dividend was lifted by 1p to 5.5p per share. The

figures were expected to be good, with or without Argyll breathing down Distillers' neck, but such an increase immediately drew a cynical response in the City.

Indeed there were a number of exceptional factors which boosted the first half growth rate. The comparable period was restricted by a dock strike that pushed shipments into the closing part of the year. Also the first quarter should have been particularly buoyant with orders ahead of price increases and again in September sales to the US market would have been stepped up ahead of a 5 per cent increase in the dollar price and the increase in US Federal Excise Tax from October 1.

Distillers also declared that it is joining the swelling ranks of companies able to take a pensions holiday while a change of accounting procedures manages to miss the figures.

So while the reported numbers look impressive the underlying growth rate is probably fairly nominal although the statement accompanying the figures was disparagingly thin on to what the real trends are. No doubt Distillers could work its way towards £280m pre-tax this year, and perhaps more, though it could take more than one year of good profits to redress the group's image in the City. If Mr Gulliver — or someone else such as Seagram's — is determined, Distillers' days as an independent company may be drawing to a close.

Courtaulds was able to join in the market's party with a record share price in the wake of its interim figures. Since the recovery in the year to March 1984, when pre-tax profits virtually doubled, the City has taken the view that Courtaulds could hardly believe in its own success. And if the directors seemed nervous about their ability to keep profits moving forward the market was not going to stick its neck out.

It is true that profits climbed by 510m last year but if acquisitions and currency gains are stripped free there was not much in the way of real growth. So the interim figures were approached with caution. It was, however, a very different Courtaulds that addressed its shareholders this week. Profits have only increased by 11 per cent to £60.3m but that is against a background of currencies moving against the group.

Far from being at the top of the cycle, the analysts are now suggesting that profits could rise to £140m this year and that Courtaulds is a reformed company with new-found stability. If the view is right a prospective p/e of under 7 looks far too low and the price could soon break through 200p.

Terry Garrett

closed half. Last month Royal merged Charterhouse with its other merchant banking subsidiary, National Commercial and Glyn's to form Charterhouse Development.

Although Royal has a low exposure to Latin American debt, failures among smaller mining companies and casualties from the shipping recession should see the bank's bad debt provisions rising to over £50m — from £38.5m last year.

The market was warned to expect poor interim results from ROTHMANS INTERNATIONAL by the group's chairman in his gloomy statement to the AGM. So City profit expectations for the six months to September have been trimmed to £65m pre-tax, compared with £81.4m in the same period of 1984.

The group's European tobacco interests have not performed strongly. Martin Brinkman, Germany's fifth largest cigarette maker, has been recovering slowly from last year's expensive rationalisation scheme. Recent price rises will have helped margins and manufacturers' receipts, however.

In the UK, Rothmans has

been losing share in a shrinking market. The 430 redundancies announced in September, follow the closure of the Basildon plant last year. Both are part of a major rationalisation programme which will prove expensive in the short term.

However, results recently announced from Canada were not as bad as once feared. Carling

Results due next week

On Wednesday, the brewing subsidiary should contribute £5m (down from the £24.5m in the same period of 1984 but an improvement on the loss of £15.2m in the second half of last year) and now have the worst of the write-offs behind it.

The bright side for Rothmans continues to be luxury goods, Dunhill Holdings, in which it has a 50.6 per cent stake, should contribute 57m — up from £5.8m. Associate Cartier has also been singled out for praise.

Overall associates, led in growth terms by Malaysia,

should contribute £34m (£26.5m) with only the weak Australian dollar holding back a more dramatic rise.

REDLAND should have made £50m pre-tax profits in its first half to be reported on Thursday, against £48.7m last year.

The City will be eager for news on the situation in West Germany, where declining housing starts could be depressing the Brans subsidiary, and on the outlook for margins in the group's UK concrete roof tile business.

In the UK, building materials-related activities should be improving, thanks primarily to the strength of aggregates. Output is forecast as rising for both aggregates and bricks. The former spurred by some important road contracts and the latter by the steady growth in demands for higher-quality bricks.

The falling volume of brick tile sales in the UK should be made up by the rise in prices and the coming on stream of the new Swatham works. Acquisitions should also boost profits in this sector.

Overseas, other than in Germany, the most important

INDEX RISE SINCE JULY 25 1985

The following table lists the changes in the Ordinary Index and its constituents since July 23 to date. The FT-SE 100 Index is also shown.

FT Ord. Index	1,135.4	+234.4	Change			Price since y'day 25.7.85	High	Low	Change	Price since y'day 25.7.85	High	Low
			1985	High	Low							
ASDA-MFI	142	+ 8	166	130	110	396	+101	405	277	396	405	277
Allied-Lyons	292	+74	285	153	124	274	+ 70	274	190	253	292	175
BICC	240	+50	270	185	124	224	+ 36	232	177	214	225	167
BOC Group	324	+51	324	248	174	447	+ 84	456	360	374	447	222
BTR	396	+93	397	295	192	734	+ 74	830	630	618	734	511
Beecham Group	313	- 2	390	283	192	190	+ 51	192	115	190	190	131
Blue Circle Inds.	593	+63	603	468	320	718	+ 40	720	568	614	718	192
Boots	255	+76	255	162	124	433	+ 75	440	304	250	433	240
Brit. Petroleum	605	+95	605	473	321	422	+ 4	322	116	108	422	81
Brit. Telecom	244	+25	247	183	124	142	+ 4	142	116	108	142	81
Cadby Scheps.	147	+ 2	176	131	102	540	+ 57	548	417	500	520	151.52
Courtaulds	183	+60	185	122	102	419	+100	454	300	56	47	9.37
Distillers	485	+225	503	270	162	162	+ 42	162	119	184	171	100
General Electric	196	+18	220	150	102	315	+ 73	342	212	211	209	164
Glaxo	153	+ 3	155	110	102	14510	+223.3	14510	12061	12061	12061	12061

* Assumed fully-paid price.

Realism amid the euphoria

THE celebrations marking the fifth anniversary of the creation of the Unlisted Securities Market have brought a crop of claims about its successes that have at times verged on the euphoric.

Bannock, issued by The Economist Publications.

Like other observers, Bannock finds that a major influence on the USM has been its susceptibility to the poor performance of two sectors to which it has been particularly heavily weighted: oils and electronics. If the FT-Actuaries All-Share Index is reorientated to reflect the USM's sector weighting, he says, the discrepancy between the two

outlook for Britain's.

The other notable publication of the week is the third edition of Hoare Govett's annual Unlisted Securities Market Directory. With this tome, we veer back towards enthusiastic approbation of the market; but this in no way detracts from the usefulness of a work which verges on the indispensable for any serious USM followers.

Bannock goes on to cite two other factors: that of the USM's best performers move on to the main market; and that the performance of the main

market recently has reflected a period of exceptional profitability for Britain's bigger companies. But he says that the most important factor is that in the early days of the USM, when p/e ratios were high, new issues tended to go to a larger premium when deals began. Nowadays, he finds that the average premium over issue price is quite small once the initial flurry has died down.

"This movement towards greater realism — also reflected in declining p/e ratios — is probably the main explanation for the disappointing performance of the USM index," he concludes. This is not a startlingly original observation, but it is refreshing to find someone daring to utter the words "disappointing" and "USM" in the same breath.

Not Bannock is dismissing the market as a flop; in the long run, he says, USM stocks (if not the USM index) ought to perform much better than the main market. Sadly, he does not elaborate on this apparent paradox.

Richard Tomkins

Redland interests are in the US and Australia. In Australia, associate Monier is performing strongly although, given the weakness of the dollar, local gains will be hard put to overcome the translation effect.

Redland Worth in the US will benefit from the increased Federal spending on roads.

UNIGATE has its doubts but the sale of Bowyer has eliminated a loss maker and the much talked of milk war has not taken place. Pre-tax profits for the six months to September may turn out just a shade short of £30m, against £25.9m last time.

The virtues of the milk and meat mix are not sung by all and Mr John Clements, chairman and chief executive, is keen to point to the soundness of the group's acquisition of J. P. Wood, just when the poultry business appears to be picking up again. There could also be some news on whether Mr Clements intends to go or if a new managing director is to be appointed soon.

Over this year as a whole, the 13 per cent is being looked for — mainly coming from the non-milk area as dairy profits have been static for some time and not contribute just under half of the group's total profits.

Profits from Wincanton, contract vehicle hire and sales, should be rising again after a dull 1984-85. Giltspur's transport business is improving and the other parts of this subsidiary have shown fairly steady growth.

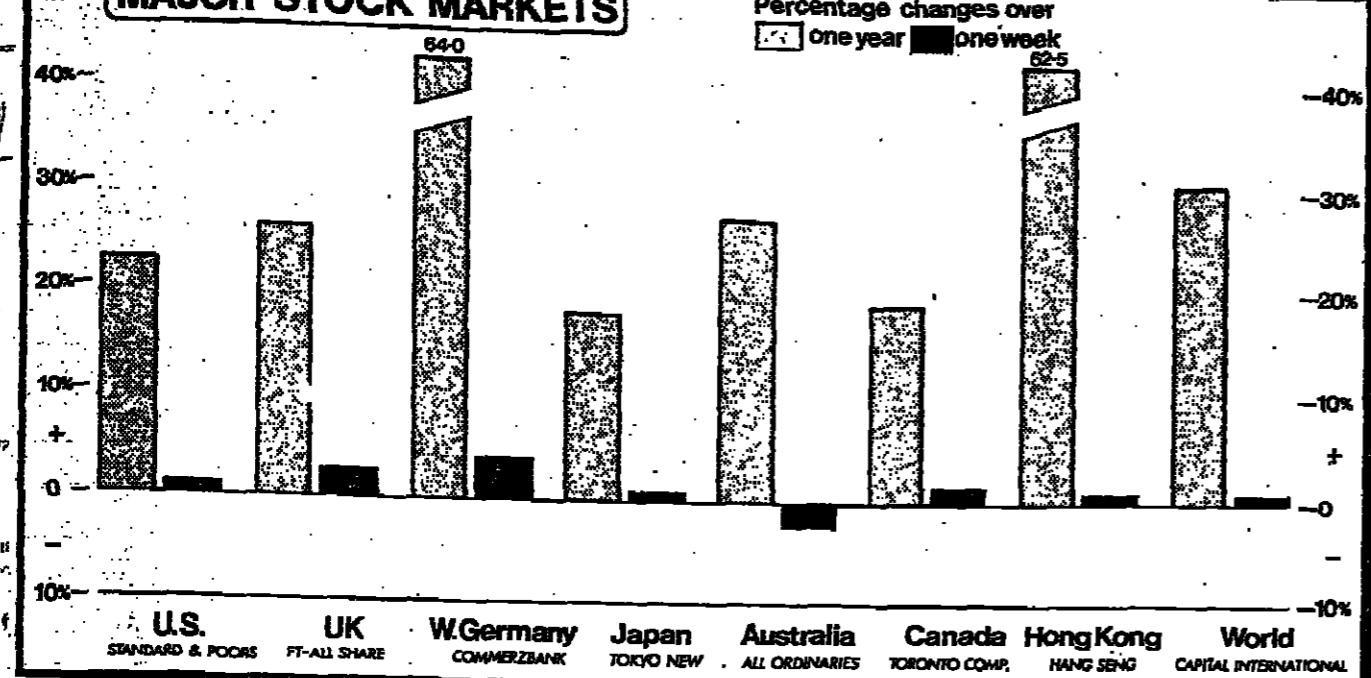
Overseas, Unigate International has a question mark on its US performance due to the low rise in dollar terms in 1984-85. A stronger pound could eliminate such modest growth if it was repeated.

MEPC brought in some satisfactory figures at the interim stage with pre-tax profits up from £21.8m to £24.7m, but there is a degree of nervousness over what shifts in exchange rates might have done to figures for the year to September, due out on Wednesday.

The revenue account is likely to show good income growth and pre-tax profits are expected to have risen from £45.1m to £51m, but currencies — and the Australian dollar in particular — are likely to have taken their toll of the net asset value.

The major event of MEPC's year was the acquisition of the English Property Company for £12.5m in July, the purchase price of which was met partly through a cash payment of £30m and partly through a vendor placing of 33m shares at 250p. The immediate effect was to realign MEPC's portfolio back towards the UK, but the transaction came too late in the year to have any significant impact

MAJOR STOCK MARKETS



The modern miracle of survival

IT WAS not only politicians and their supporters who were relieved when last week's extraordinary government crisis in Israel was brought to an end — however temporary. In the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange the signs of relief were audible as far as the Yemenite street market and the great synagogue.

When Shimon Peres, the premier, and Ariel Sharon, his recalcitrant Trade and Industry Minister, first locked horns, shares traders and their customers were aghast, though scarcely shocked. The austerity programme on which the coalition accord was founded was in peril of its life, and shares, predictably fell.

They have since rallied, the feeling is, however, that many self-instructions have merely been placed on hold. If this government should finally disintegrate, the market's reaction will be sharp and immediate.

None of this is a surprise. The wonder is that the market is there at all. The inglorious 1983 crash, precipitated by a collapse in bank shares, was the greatest in the exchange's history — the investment equivalent of the Battle of the Somme. Shares tumbled under the weight of incoming self-fire, hand-to-hand fighting reduced proud portfolios to discarded scraps of paper.

Dr Meir Heth, chairman of the Exchange, is acutely aware of the miracle of survival. A quiet, contemplative man, he now sees merit in just being around to pick up the pieces.

"Some people," he says, "have argued that we should suspend the Stock Exchange for a while and wait for better times. I say no. We have no alternative but to go on. The exchange has a future. Investors don't realise that we are keeping a principle alive."

Fortunately, the steadfastness of Mr Heth is reflected in Tel Aviv's continuing activity. It may have bad weeks (when did it last have a good week? is the inevitable refrain), but the exchange remains in business. In spiking new premises, and still offers the prudent investor a real rate of return.

Ironically, on the day when the coalition crisis was bursting, the exchange was observing the 50th anniversary of securities trading in Israel. Celebrations would be too strong a word. Speeches at a reception in the Hilton Hotel were muted. Everyone present was aware that, at the other end of town, investors had their eyes on Jerusalem. Cold water flowed like champagne.

A few figures: the general share index this week hovered around the 265 mark, based on a January opening figure of 100. This appears impressive until it is recalled that inflation (expected to end the year at 180 per cent) reduces the real rise, in dollar terms, to about a quarter of the apparent increase.

A major shortcoming now, according to Mr Heth, is that the primary market is almost non-existent. The total volume of business, both on and off the Tel Aviv exchange, pre-

floor, is averaging between \$3m and \$5m a day, representing a sharp decline from the daily total of more than \$70m in 1982, the peak of the boom.

Although there are now 270 companies quoted on the exchange, against 80 in 1978, the worry is that no new listings have been published this year, compared with 78 in 1982 alone and 11 in 1984.

Bank shares, formerly a mainstay of the market, are still important in trading, but following the government's bail-out of most of the commercial banks in 1983 — are now sold

Tel Aviv

mostly as quasi-government bonds. Normal trading in bank shares will not resume until the 1990s, and then only if performance has been such as to justify the change.

The non-bank, "free" sector totters along from day to day. Its index fell sharply in the immediate wake of the Cabinet crisis, edging up subsequently to around 270.

Hi-tech companies are important to the future of Israeli industry, and some, like Elron, with its various subsidiaries and affiliates, remain strong performers. This notwithstanding a number of the bigger concerns do not trade directly on the Tel Aviv exchange, pre-

ferring the over-the-counter market in New York, where most of the potential funding is located.

Manufacturing industry is grossly under-represented on the exchange because of the non-inclusion of companies operating under the banner of Elstat, the semi-state-trade union confederation. The biggest company with available shares is the Dead Sea Works, a public subsidiary of the state-owned Israel Chemicals. DSWS is flourishing.

So long as inflation remains a real problem, alternative investments are bound to be preferred to the stock market, and most money these days goes into indexed bonds, saving schemes and retirement funds. The great bulk of Israeli investment portfolios are now based on Government or Government-backed liabilities. There is trading in short-term bonds, but this market is dominated by the Bank of Israel, operating under its own rules.

Shares in many other companies are not even trading at the moment. Some are under suspension. ATA textiles, once mighty, is a case in point. Bankruptcies are also a continuing problem: Kotel Tours and MAOF Travel are among the more prominent recent failures.

Overall, the number of Israeli companies in financial difficulties rose in October by 18 per cent, to an official total of 1,332.

Walter Ellis

Dr Meir Heth, chairman of the Exchange, is acutely aware of the miracle of survival.

A quiet, contemplative man, he now sees merit in just being around to pick up the pieces.

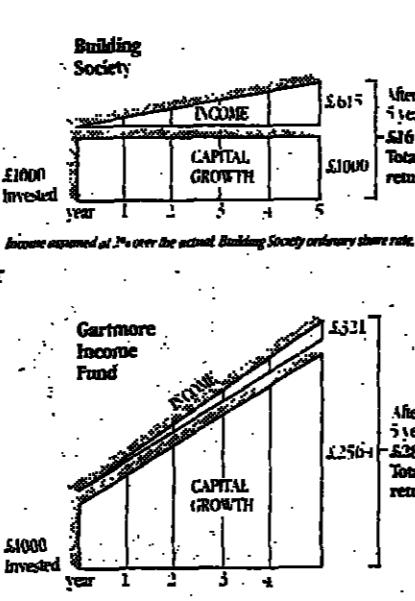
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Performance

Looking at the charts, it's easy to see that the total return from the Gartmore Income Fund has been considerably more than the Building Societies have provided over the past five years. Over this period, the Gartmore Income Fund has been consistently among the top performing funds of its class. But even more



impressive, it has also out-performed many funds designed specifically to provide capital growth.

An investment of £1,000 on 1st November 1980 in the Gartmore Income Fund would now be worth £2,885 (offer to bid basis as at 11.18.85).

Management expertise
The Fund benefits from the management expertise of the Gartmore Group which handles investments in excess of £2.2 billion internationally.

You can invest in the Gartmore Income Fund by simply completing and returning the coupon together with your cheque. The offer price of units on the 21st November 1985 was 63.1P with an estimated current growth yield of 3.92%.

Remember that the price of units and income from them may go down as well as up and unit trust investment should be recognised as long term.

at 11.18.85.

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THE BARRIER that Wall Street had begun to erect around the 1,450 mark on the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell this week as though it had never existed. On Thursday, indeed, buying power was so strong, as trading volume shot up to 150m shares, that the index easily moved through 1,450 on the day, while the Standard & Poor's 500 topped 200 for the first time to settle for the day at 201.49. With the market in its present mood, traders are beginning to consider the 1,500 level on the Dow as a surmountable hurdle.

It may be that some investors this week have been encouraged by the sight of President Reagan suppressing his obsession with the evil empire in favour of a rapprochement with the Soviet Union; and the possibility of political peace on another front — the burning question of the U.S. budget deficit — has certainly played a part in improving market sentiment.

But analysts have little doubt that the main driving force behind the continuing powerful upswing in the equity market is the downward trend in long-term interest rates and the equally steady deterioration of the dollar on the foreign exchange markets.

The more relaxed tone in the credit markets was amply demonstrated this week by two features. First, they swallowed

the Treasury Bill Note and bond offerings of \$46.5bn with ease. Second, the yield on the 30-year Treasury long bond plummeted down through the 10 per cent level for the first time in five years, reaching 9.92 per cent on Thursday. Only two months ago, the same long bond was trading at 10.80 per cent.

Similarly, the dollar has eased yet further this week, touching Y200 at one point on

as those in the pharmaceutical sector — have remained strong

this week, while the rally has begun to wash over the area of high technology stocks. Indeed, the share price of IBM, regarded as the bellwether for the high-tech sector, broke through \$140 this week for the first time ever, easily exceeding its previous high of \$138.50.

At this level, IBM is on an

historic price-earnings ratio of 14, whereas a year ago it was

trading at \$121 on a p/e of 12.

Indeed, the present rally, which

has carried the Dow Industrial

index up by 160 points since the

third week in September, is be-

ginning to push the market to

multiples which many analysts

do not believe are sustainable.

The p/e ratio on the prospective

earnings of the S and P 500

companies next year, for

example, has remained par-

ticularly strong this week, on

the argument that the cost of

their lending rates. Utility

stocks also have been active,

moving ahead vigorously

on Thursday, although they are

still below their record heights

touched on Thursday.

On the dollar-related front

companies with broad exposure

in international markets — such

— not least the possible return

Onward to 1500

holding in two or more of the existing companies.

It is this aspect that makes

the OFS merger scheme so com-

plicated, notably in the various

options offered for shareholders

to switch from one share into

another. For the man in the

street, however, the term "OF

is reasonably straightforward: of

the alternatives offered are

ignored.

On the basis of every 100

shares now owned in the various

companies, the terms work out

thus: Free State Consolidated

Gold Mines, mercifully to be

known more simply as "Free

gold." It will control the en-

larged mining operation and

take over Free State Geduld,

President Brand and Western

Holdings.

The second company is a new-

comer to be called Orange Free

State

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Galliford

Year ended 30th June	Dividends per share (pence)
1981	2.5
1982	2.7
1983	3.0
1984	4.0
1985	4.4

At the Annual General Meeting held on the 21st November 1985, the Chairman, Mr. Peter Galliford, said:-

"The encouraging start to the current year's trading referred to in the preliminary statement issued early in October has continued.

Our contracting companies, in particular, are maintaining the satisfactory performance re-established last year."

Copies of the 1985 Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Galliford plc, Wolvey, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 3JD.

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The Marketing Director
THE BANKER
102-108 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1M 5SA
Tel: 01-251 9321 Telex: 23700



A house for 1% deposit

LEGAL & GENERAL is test marketing a scheme under which house buyers can avoid paying a deposit normally provided at exchange of contracts. Under the plan the purchaser pays only 1 per cent of the purchase price to the insurance company, instead of the usual 10 per cent deposit, when contracts are exchanged. In turn, Legal & General provides the seller of the house with a Property Deposit Bond guaranteeing to pay if the buyer defaults.

The main attraction of the bond is that it can be used as an alternative to borrowing money at a time when cash is often short. It is claimed that although the premium on the bond is non-returnable, unlike a deposit, the cost may well work out less than interest paid on a bridging loan without all the worry. The bond will not be available, however, to first-time house buyers. At present Legal & General is confining the scheme solely to Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, but if the test marketing proves successful, it is likely to be extended nationally.

New Lazard launch

LAZARDS, the London merchant bank, is launching its fifth Business Expansion Scheme fund, its second in this tax year. The Fifth Lazard Development Capital Fund calls for a minimum of £1.5m by January 15, with priority given to investors in the fourth Lazard fund.

The bank—part of the Pearson Group, which also owns the Financial Times—has built up a track record of investing in relatively low risk companies. 30 companies to date from the £14m raised on the first four funds. It avoids investing in start-up companies, and has so far notched up only one failure: Trathens PLC, the Plymouth-based coach operators, which is in liquidation. It was a syndicated investment in tandem with the Britannia, Castleford and Quadrant BES funds. Lazard is charging a 7 per cent front-end fee, and

may negotiate share options on up to 10 per cent of the equity of the companies the fund invests in.

Better than an atom bomb

"THIS IS a real breakthrough, something like the discovery of electricity or the atom bomb, and will change the face of Life Insurance into the next century and beyond." With hype like this it is hard to take ManuLife's new flexible cover plan seriously.

The plan is a life unit-linked insurance policy, with the option to increase your life cover in line with inflation without giving any further evidence that you are fit and healthy.

You can take out additional policies without evidence of health at certain ages, and also on marriage or the birth or legal adoption of a child.

Tuck in with a discount

MESSY EATERS can tuck into their Christmas dinners this year without fear of soiling their best bib and tucker. Sketchley is doubling its dry-cleaning discount to shareholders for the whole of January and February.

The move comes in celebration of the company's centenary, and gives shareholders 50 per cent off the cost of cleaning and shoe repairs at nearly 500 Sketchley branches.

The discount will not come cheap unless you are already one of the company's 12,000 shareholders. You need a minimum of 300 shares to qualify, and with Sketchley close to its peak at 416p a share you could end up paying £1,268 for the privilege.

Sketchley admits that January and February are quieter trading months, so it is not being all that generous with the discount.

More generous is the scheme Sketchley is starting before Christmas to benefit Help the Aged and Dr Barnado's. Take unwanted coats and children's outer clothing to a Sketchley branch, and they will clean and repair them free and give them to the charities.

NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE plans to sidestep the debate about whether the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme—Serps—should be abolished: its Harvester company pension plan is claimed to work alongside Serps, or to replace it if Serps is abolished. It offers seven unit-linked funds to invest pension contributions in, and a with-profits fund.

Holidays on the ever-ever

WHILE you are working, the cost of a holiday can be met from earnings, especially if your family has left home. But will you still be able to afford those holidays once you have retired?

One objective in saving while still at work is to ensure that you will have enough money for the luxuries that make retirement more enjoyable.

A new scheme from the Leeds-based Carrosale Leisure, launched this week in conjunction with the life company FS Assurance, which is based in Glasgow, essentially offers the opportunity to take holidays while working and at the same time to save towards those holidays in retirement.

The scheme is called the Capital Life and Leisure Bond. You first put down a lump sum of £300. You then make monthly payments of £60 for a 10-year period. The lump sum, together with £15 of each monthly payment goes to Carrosale. The remaining £45 of each monthly payment is invested in an FS Assurance Minimum policy—10-year with-profits endowment contract.

The money paid to Carrosale entitles the bondholders to a two-week holiday without any hotel accommodation costs. The maturity payment after 10 years on the endowment provides the cash for the holidays to con-

tinue for the rest of your life.

At present, Carrosale has arranged just one location for its holidays—the four star Grand Hotel Excelsior overlooking Valletta harbour in Malta.

If you take out this bond now you will be guaranteed a fortnight's holiday in Malta for the next 10 years from 1988. Carrosale is hoping to include two more hotels in Malta for 1989.

The accommodation at the Excelsior for two weeks costs £324 for a twin bed room. This compares with a payment of £450 under the bond in the first year and £180 for the next nine years.

The costs of the holiday to be borne by the bondholder are the air fare, a local service charge and spending money. Holders of the bond are members of the Carrosale Hospital Club.

If the bondholder cannot take or afford the holiday in a particular year, then it can be sold to another person.

After 10 years, the endowment policy matures with a value estimated at £8,800 on current bonus rates. Bondholders have three choices:

1. Take the full amount, in which case the holiday arrangements cease.

2. Code half the maturity value to Carrosale for guaranteed two weeks each year for the rest of your life.

3. Surrender the whole value for a guaranteed four-week holiday every year.

PS Assurance may be the smallest of the British life companies, but it has a reputation as one of the pillars of the establishment.

It is not heavily involved in the holiday arrangements. But since it has given its name to the scheme and is marketing it through its intermediary network, it has a strong moral obligation to ensure that everything is above board. It claims to have checked out all the arrangements.

So what are the drawbacks? First, the time your holiday can be taken is not guaranteed. Carrosale hopes to control this problem by limiting the number of bonds sold to 75 per cent of the available accommodation over a year—at present around 3,500—and it has agreed to accommodate any overflow with hotels of equal status.

Second, the choice of holiday is limited to Malta. Carrosale is negotiating for other holiday centres to broaden the scope of the scheme. Finally, the scheme could fold, but the losses would be more in holidaymakers' expectations than in their pockets.

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FINANCE & THE FAMILY

Mortgages

Home and dry on pension

A more likely reason is that intermediaries are not going to push pension mortgages for employees because there is little in it for them, unlike the self-employed where there is a pension contract involving useful commission payments. As a result employees as a whole are not aware that they could use their pension to repay a mortgage.

However, the evolutionary process cannot be held back indefinitely. Certain institutions are exploring the possibility of pension mortgages for employees and their families, using company pension scheme facilities.

At first sight, this seems illogical. The pension mortgage operates on an interest only basis during the term of the mortgage, with repayment from the proceeds of a pension contract.

Employees in company schemes usually have the right to commute part of their pension for a tax-free lump sum up to a maximum of 12 times earnings at retirement after 20 years service. So the company scheme, like the self-employed or executive pension contract, provides cash from which to repay a mortgage.

In addition, most company schemes have built-in life cover.

Yet, the building societies, with one or two exceptions, will not entertain mortgages based on employee pension schemes. Their argument is that the employee has less control over his affairs than does the self-employed—a situation that may be more illusory than real.

Now there is a second complication. At present an individual employee cannot make his own AVC arrangements. AVC schemes are arranged by the trustees of the company pension scheme, either through a life company, a building society or invested in the main company scheme. The employee then has the opportunity of taking up the arrangement for himself.

Thus, Kleinwort Benson is marketing its AVC mortgage scheme through life companies, talking to company pension managers and personnel directors. A master scheme is arranged within the company

which promotes details of the scheme to employers.

Employees who are interested then deal direct with Kleinwort Benson for an AVC mortgage, but the bank does not accept an initial approach direct from the employee.

The bank insists that separate life cover, assigned to the bank, must be taken out even though the company scheme has built-in life cover. Kleinwort Benson wants the mortgage to be repaid automatically should the employee die before retirement.

However, employees in company schemes giving benefits at or near to the Inland Revenue maximum cannot take out AVCs. This applies particularly to public sector and some old-established private schemes. The Kleinwort Benson scheme is not available for them.

Indeed, the concept of interest-only mortgages is being developed at a rapid pace. Kleinwort Benson is also investigating the use of Section 32 buy-out annuities as part of the means of repaying a mortgage. From next year, employees will have the right, on changing jobs, to take a transfer payment from their scheme and buy an annuity with the money from a life company. Any inquiries should be made through the intermediary and not to Kleinwort Benson direct.

Eric Short



David Steen

not an aberration. Pinchin Denny's David Steen, chairman of the SE options committee, noted that the surge in activity reflected "an increasing awareness by investors of the advantages and flexibility which traded option soon provide."

"His is only beginning," he added. "By this time next year I expect to see this market trading over 50,000 contracts a day."

Part of this increase will follow the introduction of new stocks. At present 33 stocks are quoted as traded option contracts.

Among these is Distillers which made a brisk start on Thursday. One of the sector's leading brokers bought an unprecedented block of 500 options for a client in the first couple of hours of trading, despite high premiums. Distillers are regarded as a take-over prospect and call options offer an excellent way of making very substantial gains for comparatively little outlay in such circumstances.

The Stock Exchange says it intends to introduce at least one new option contract per month in 1986. With big privatisation issues such as Cable and Wireless and British Gas coming to the market the prospect for attracting more interest to this lucrative sector is good.

Market officials are confident that one area remains dis-

tant. But one area remains dis-

• FINANCE & THE FAMILY •

Christmas giving

The lolly and the ivy



THE TSB pays 7.25 per cent on its Jeans Scheme account for 7 to 14 year olds but encourages regular saving by giving free gifts such as calculators or clocks at the end of the year if they save monthly.

Children are getting wise to giveaways or gimmicks and have become adept at opening and closing bank accounts once they've picked up the free gifts. They then keep their money in the account which pays most, so if you intend to open an account on their behalf go for one combining high interest with incentives to save.

It is also worth taking a close look at goodies on offer as you may have to pay for the starter packs — in the case of the Anglia Building Society, the same for NatWest's Piggy Bank account and £2 for its On Line account. For instance. And if you want to encourage saving by giving a bank money box Barclays will charge £1.

The best return from building societies is offered by Leeds Permanent which pays 8.0 per cent net up to the first £500. In spite of its previous shunning of gimmicks the Leeds is running a Christmas pay quiz competition with 1,000 Sony Walkmans as prizes. The Anglia pays 7.75 per cent on its Top Saver account but this goes up to 8.25 per cent as a result of birthday bonuses of 0.5 per cent each year. The Yorkshire also emphasises continued saving.

paying the ordinary share rate initially but giving bonuses of £2.50 when the account reaches £50, £100, £250 and £500.

Most of the other major societies also operate children's accounts but offer giveaways and gimmicks rather than financial incentives.

There are much more financially attractive investment vehicles for children than those offered by banks or building societies. National Savings Investment Accounts and Deposit Bonds all pay interest gross. Current returns are 11.5 per cent and 12 per cent respectively. You need only £5 to open an investment account and can make withdrawals if you give

one month's notice. You have to make an initial investment of £100 to buy a deposit bond and the same amount is required to make any further investments. The child will be restricted to withdrawing £50 minimum and have to give three months notice.

National Savings Income Bonds, and the new Index Linked Bond, also pay interest gross but are inappropriate unless the aim is to use the investment to provide regular income or pocket money. National Savings Certificates, the current 31st issue paying 7.85 per cent after tax, are only suitable for wealthy children paying higher rate income tax.

If you and/or the child have a gambling streak then Premium Bonds may be the answer. Children can't hold them until they are 16 but you can buy them on their behalf at banks or post offices. They are sold in £1 units though the minimum purchase is £5. More than 150,000 prizes are paid each month ranging from a jackpot of £250,000 down to £50.

Each year there is one prize of £100,000, one of £50,000 and one of £25,000. But the chances of winning a prize are fairly remote with a small holding.

Non-income investments such as Premium Bonds, stamps and coins are suitable presents for parents to give their own children. Investments which produce income are not, since they will be included with the parents' income and taxed accordingly. Bank, building society or National Savings accounts would also be suitable for your own children if you are only a basic rate taxpayer.

High coupon gilts, which take advantage of children's personal

tax allowance, also offer attractive returns. If on the National Savings Stock register and bought through a Post Office they pay interest gross which avoids the usual bother of having to reclaim tax deducted at source. Available stocks on the Register include 15.50 per cent Treasury Stock 1998, 15.25 per cent Treasury Stock 1992 and 14.5 per cent Treasury Stock 1994. There is the further advantage that there is no minimum investment requirement through the register.

The more adventurous may feel that the sooner children get used to the stockmarket the better. And since more unit trust groups have introduced monthly savings plans these have become popular as Christmas gifts with the added fun that the child can follow the investments' progress in the FT or other financial pages.

Foreign and Colonial even offers such a gift scheme on its Capital Fund, which is an international growth fund. As little as £20 can be invested on a child's behalf to buy units in the fund.

Other unit trusts groups, such as Barclays, Unicorn, Gartmore, M & G and Sava and Prosper operate similar schemes to Foreign and Colonial. Usually the minimum initial and repeat investments £20 but it is not essential to make regular additional payments. However, those management groups which allow regular contributions do not do so on all their funds so the investment choice is limited.

Usually the minimum investment for those without regular savings schemes is £500. All unit trusts stress the covenant route discussed last week as the best option.

Unit trust dividends are not paid gross but the tax deducted at source can be reclaimed for a non-taxpaying child so most children get a tax-free return. Unlike gifts, however, unit trust holdings are subject to capital gains tax when sold

The Gresham Trust Business Expansion Fund 1985/86

A Fund approved by the Inland Revenue under the terms of the Finance Act 1980

Following the successful launch of The Gresham Trust Business Expansion Fund 1984/85, announced in November 1984, which raised approximately £1.72m and was fully invested by 5th April 1985, Gresham Trust has now launched a fund for the tax year 1985/86 and has extended the time for receipt of applications.

WHAT THE FUND OFFERS INVESTORS:

- The opportunity to invest in a diversified portfolio of unquoted ordinary shares.
- The benefit of Gresham's long experience of investment in unquoted companies and the investment opportunities made available to Gresham because of its established reputation.
- Tax relief at the highest marginal rate of tax and the chance of a high after tax return.

Applications, which will be dealt with in strict order of receipt, should reach Gresham Trust not later than 20th December 1985. The right is reserved to close the fund at any time prior to that date.

The minimum investment is £2,000; maximum £40,000.

For a copy of the Memorandum and application form, phone or return the completed coupon. Participants should recognise that investment in unquoted companies carries a high risk as well as the chance of high rewards. Before deciding to proceed with an application, individuals should take financial

advice taking account of the risks involved and their own financial circumstances and tax position.

This advertisement does not constitute an invitation to participate in the Fund; subscriptions must be made to the managers, Gresham Trust p.l.c., and will only be accepted on the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum.

To: Gresham Trust p.l.c., Barrington House, Gresham Street, London EC2V 2HE (Telephone: 01-606 6474)

Please send me a copy of the Memorandum.

Name _____

Address _____

FT 25.11

Gresham Trust p.l.c.

Share option scheme

A taste for everybody

WHEN A company comes to a Stock Exchange listing, the main beneficiaries are expected to be its original owners. Employees, too, may gain if the listing is accompanied by a scheme to give them priority in applying for shares.

Laura Ashley, the fashion and textile group whose offer for sale was announced this week, has come up with a four-legged scheme designed to meet the requirements of its employees — many of them 19 or 20 year old women with no previous experience of share buying.

The scheme starts with a gift of £50 worth of shares to all employees who have been with Laura Ashley for at least the last seven months. The second leg is a matching offer, where employees receive between one and four free shares for each share they buy in the issue for themselves.

"The free offer gives everyone a 'taste,'" says Laurie Brennan, chief executive of New Bridge Street Consultants, the employee share specialists who designed the Laura Ashley scheme. "The matching offer means the staff have to put up their own money."

Under both these offers the shares will be put into a special trust. Employees may not sell them or take them out of the trust for two years.

Part of the reason for the trust is to save tax. If the shares are held in trust for more than

five years employees will not have to pay income tax on the value of the free shares they have received. But John Winter, deputy managing director, Laura Ashley, admits the tax benefits were secondary to the desire to encourage not to sell their shares straight away: "We wanted a holding period, anyway," he says.

The matching offer is intended to give greater benefits to those who have been with the company for longest, and are most senior. The offer is scaled so that if you joined in 1984 and earn less than £12,000, you will receive one share free for each share you buy; but it rises to 4:1 for those who have been with Laura Ashley for ten years or more and earn over £5,000. Most employees fall in the 1:1 category.

Employees are limited to a maximum of £1,200 worth of free shares from the matching offer. If they want any more, they must pay the full rate, but can receive priority over ordinary applications in the same way.

It is a standard share options savings plan, to be found in many companies, not just those coming to the Stock Exchange. You save between £10 and £100 a month for five years in a special account with the Halifax Building Society. At the end of the five years you receive a tax-free interest payment. You may use the total saved for any purpose you wish, but you are offered the chance to buy Laura Ashley shares at a price 10 per cent below this year's issue price.

Privatisations like British Telecom have greatly extended public knowledge of the share market.

Laurie Brennan, whose company also handles the British Telecom employee share scheme, learnt from experience that a few employees might borrow tens of thousands of pounds to apply for priority shares, which could then be sold on immediately at a profit. For Laura Ashley, therefore, a limit of £5,000 has been placed on

the priority offer and matching offer taken together.

Anyone wanting to apply for more than £5,000 of shares will have to take their chances in the general issue.

The last leg of the Laura Ashley scheme is a savings plan, aimed particularly at those who do not have enough money immediately available to buy as many shares as they may want.

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You save between £10 and £1

Understanding Reports and Accounts



For many shareholders, the only contact they maintain with the company in which they own a stake is through a glossy magazine containing the annual report and accounts. This magazine should tell you just how well or badly the company is performing.

Often, however, a great deal of really worthwhile information is tucked away at the back in accountants' jargon that is difficult for outsider to understand. The purpose of this series by Jane Allan, a chartered accountant and lecturer, is to explain how you should read the annual accounts and report to cut through the jargon and get a clear picture of what is going on.

This will help you to decide whether to sell or retain the shareholding—or invest some more in the company.

When the accounts arrive, they usually make up a glossy parcel of information out of which may well fall further documents: invitations to the AGM; opportunities to vote in absence by filling in a proxy card; perhaps details of shareholder special offers or incentives. The cover looks good; open page one and there will be an index to the contents, plus perhaps some financial highlights. These are interesting extras but you should ignore them until you have read the full story contained in the back pages.

Shortly after the index, there will be the chairman's report. He will attempt to put into a clear, communicative style all the relevant information he feels shareholders need to know about the company and its activities during the year in question. Chairman's reports usually are well illustrated and put lucidly.

However, like estate agents selling a house, chairman naturally concentrate on the good points of the year. Well worth reading for background information, the chairman's report does not tell you all you need to know about the company you own. To be better informed, you are going to have to turn to the financial information that appears later on.

To read a set of accounts effectively start by glancing through the directors' report to get some background information about the company. This should explain where and in which commodity the company trades. Turn to the chairman's statement and get some information about the sort of trading



year the company has had.

Then find and read the auditor's report; what has he to say about the company? Which pages of the report has he audited? It is after all, his legal duty to report to the shareholders and keep them informed as to how the company is trading.

Next, it will be essential to find out the rules under which the accounts have been drafted. Some of the rules are those applying to all companies; but there will always be a special set; find them in the Accounting Policies section.

Now the background information is complete, it is worthwhile turning to the accounts themselves. Try the Profit and Loss account first; this financial history book will tell how the company traded for the year it is reporting. It will have nothing to say about the future of course. Nor will much of its information make sense without reading the notes to the accounts at the same time.

Once all the information to be gained from the profit and loss account is collected it will be time to turn to the Balance Sheet. This is really a picture of the company and its assets and liabilities on the last day of its financial year. It will explain what the company owns and what it owes.

One really valuable document remains to be read; the Source and Application of Funds Statement. This is the document that explains where all the money came from in the year of trading, and how it was spent. It clarifies how much money remains in the business and how it has been put to use for the business.

Jane Allan

WHEN you first handle a Patek Philippe, you become aware that this watch has the presence of an object of rare perfection. We know the feeling well. We experience it every time a Patek Philippe leaves the hands of our craftsmen. You can call it pride. For us it lasts a moment; for you, a lifetime.

We made this watch for you—to be part of your life—simply because this is the way we've always made watches. And if we may draw a conclusion from five generations of experience, it will be this: choose once but choose well. A Patek Philippe—because it's for a lifetime.



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UNIT TRUST regular savings schemes are the unsung heroes of the investment world. Since the abolition of life assurance premium relief (LAPR) in the 1984 Budget, they have emerged as the best home for smalltime-savers paying tax at the basic rate. Such schemes are still largely ignored.

Yet, most obviously, they are much more flexible. MIPs involve contracts to save for five or 10 years, and carry penalties for early encashment. With unit trust savings schemes contributions as low as £20 to £30 a month (only £10 in the case of Gartmore, Midland and Barrington) can be altered, missed or discontinued at any time without loss other than the bid/offer spread on the units.

The unit trust plans also tend to be more tax-efficient, particularly if low-yielding growth funds are involved. Unlike the insurance funds, they pay no capital gains tax internally; they give investors the scope to escape tax liability by selling units to fill up their £5,000 annual allowance. That makes them the best buy for 30 per cent rate taxpayers—who will not have to pay further tax on their trust dividends—and anyone outside the capital gains tax.

Higher rate taxpayers, particularly those likely to face a gains tax bill, may be better off taking the insurance route. But they must be willing to save for at least seven and a half years in a "qualifying" policy if their eventual return is to be tax free. If the units are cashed in earlier, the whole profit—capital gain as well as rolled up earnings—are underpaid," says S&P's Ken Emery. "The intermediary, after all, has got to make a living."

Lastly, unit trust savings

Unit trust savings

The unsung heroes

UNIT TRUST REGULAR SAVINGS

Sector	Result of £20 a month invested over		
	15 years	10 years	5 years
UK General	£13,352	£6,418	£1,923
UK Growth	£11,596	£5,937	£1,825
UK Equity Income	£13,364	£6,656	£2,047
International	£9,786	£5,068	£1,634
North America	£7,685	£4,800	£1,549
Europe	£2,115	£4,465	£2,112
Australia	£6,268	£2,271	£1,131
Japan	£12,972	£6,720	£2,014
Far East		£4,988	£1,584

Offer to bid, net income reinvested. Figures at October 1. Source: Unit Trust Association.

plans pay considerably less in commission to the intermediaries selling them. With MIPs the insurance companies pay as much as 35 per cent of first year premiums to brokers and financial advisers. That means charges are heavily front-loaded, providing an extra disincentive to cashing in early. Your first few monthly payments disappear in expenses when they might be buying units which, since they are invested the longest, should produce the greatest growth.

Unit trusts, in contrast, deduct only 5 per cent of your contributions passing on 3 per cent of this to agents. So more of your early money goes on units and less into the broker's pocket. Brown Shipley's scheme goes one further by avoiding intermediaries altogether, rebating the 3 per cent as bonus units to the investor.

Clearly 20 per cent up front is more attractive to agents than 15 per cent in drags and drags over five years; it also encourages the unit holder not to sell during this period. So far only GT has taken up the new commission structure, offering a compensatory 2 per cent extra units for payments after year one.

Nearly 50 groups now run unit trust savings plans; many of them set up in the wake of LAPR's demise. But not all are actively promoted; because of the expense of dealing with

numerous small transactions.

Several major companies, including Allied Dunbar, Abbey, Henderson, and Prolific, do not run them at all. Allied

dropped its savings plan, inherited from Hambs Bank, earlier this year because of administrative costs.

"It was just a service to unitholders," a spokesman said. "We made no profit on it."

McG, however, has tripled its ranks of regular savers to 30,000 since April 1984, admitted by a small proportion of its 250,000 client base—and has stopped direct marketing of its insurance linked plans.

"The unit trust schemes now offer better value," an McG spokesman said. "There is not a lot of profit in them for us, but we take the long-term view that today's small savers are

tomorrow's lump sum investors." Even during the reign of LAPR, the unit trust schemes were often turning in healthier performances than MIPs. But they can hardly fail to win now that the insurance plans' charges and the tax disadvantages have been unmasked by the removal of the 15 per cent premium subsidy.

"Unit trust plans will come out better than the insurance versions, assuming that the two funds grow at the same rate," admits S&P, which sells five- and ten-year insurance contracts as well as a straight unit trust scheme.

MIPs, of course, carry an element of life cover which unit trusts do not. But this is normally minimal. You are likely to save money separating protection from investment, and shopping around for the cheapest term assurance. Brown Shipley, for one, includes life assurance as an optional extra with their unit trust scheme, though few clients have taken it up.

Younger investors who have not yet built up a lump sum may find unit trust savings schemes especially attractive. They can direct payments to more than one fund to achieve a spread of investments that the normal £200 to £1,000 minimum requirement for each fund would otherwise rule out. And as contributions are made regularly, there is no need to worry about timing the investment—if the price drops, you simply end up buying more units.

The effect, known as "pound cost averaging," means that the average cost of units bought is lower than the average prices over the same period. Naturally this is little compensation if the units never recover.

Martin Winn

OTC market

Spotlight on risks

THE over-the-counter market has always been a risky place, but it looks more dangerous than ever in the light of a new report from the Economist.

The report looks at the options for a company that wants to offer its shares to the public outside the Stock Exchange; but the figures it has compiled on the over-the-counter market make grim reading for the investor.

The over-the-counter (OTC) market is an amorphous group of licensed dealers trading in shares over the telephone. Popular issues of fully listed shares like British Telecom and British Gas have been heavily traded, but the OTC market specialists in companies too small for a Stock Exchange listing. They are likely to be more speculative and more volatile than their big brothers listed on the Stock Exchange.

Riskier companies should offer high returns to investors to compensate for the danger—especially as very few of the OTC companies pay dividends. But the Economist report says the OTC market as a whole has gained only 6 per cent over the last two years, compared with 38 per cent for the FT All Share Index or 16 per cent for the Datastream index of the Unlisted Securities Market, the Stock Exchange's official second tier market.

The stability of the OTC index, however, conceals major movements in individual share prices. It is simply that these movements have cancelled each other out.

Some companies saw their share prices rise dramatically during the period of the study—Applied Holographics up 554 per cent, Olivier up 311 per cent, British Industries up 280 per cent. But more than half of the most volatile stocks showed a fall, and 40 per cent of these falls were of 50 per cent or more.

Movement is erratic. "In a typical recent week, less than 20 per cent of the stocks show any movement at all," the report says. "The picture is one of sharp but discontinuous changes which, to a great extent, cancel each other out."

The most damning conclusions of the report are on the question of OTC share prices. Out of 179 shares listed in the "pink sheet" published by licensed dealer Prior Harrow, 58 were quoted "basis price," which means the basis on which the deal will attempt to match bargains. This latest-best an uncertain indication of the actual prices it will prove possible to deal at.

And even where bid and offer prices are quoted, the spread—the margin between the buying and selling prices—averages a hefty 25 per cent.

"Going public: a report on the markets in unlisted securities," by Graham Bannock with Alan Doran. Economist Special Report No. 234. Price: £9.95.

OTC BID-OFFER PRICE SPREADS

Offer as %	No. of companies	% of total companies
Up to 114 ...	64	51.2
115-129 ...	31	24.8
130-144 ...	11	8.8
145 and over ...	19	15.2
Total ...	125	100.0
Av. spread ...	124.2%	

George Graham

Severe Disablement Allowance

Testing time looms for claimants

"PASPORTS" TO SEVERE DISABLEMENT ALLOWANCE

- If you already receive attendance or mobility allowance.
- If you receive War Pensioners Mobility Supplement.
- If you have an invalid tricycle, DHSS car or private users' car allowance.
- If you are registered with your local authority as blind or partially sighted.
- If you have already been assessed as 80 per cent disabled for the purposes of industrial injuries benefit or a war disablement pension.
- If you have received a vaccine damage payment.

There are in fact several exceptions. First, if you already receive NHCIP or HNCIP, you will automatically be transferred to SDA. Secondly, if you are between 18 and 20, you need only show that you are incapable of work—you do not need to have your disability assessed. Thirdly, again because the DHSS and the medical authorities cannot cope with claims requiring medical assessments, certain benefits have been designated as "passports" to the new allowance. In other words, if you qualify under certain benefits or assessments summarised in the table, you will not have to undergo a fresh assessment. You will simply be deemed 80 per cent disabled.

Because the DHSS operates assessments in the same way as for industrial injuries benefit, it is not clear what the long-term implications will be. The DHSS has not yet issued a code of practice for the new allowance, so it is not clear what the implications will be for claimants. The DHSS has not yet issued a code of practice for the new allowance, so it is not clear what the implications will be for claimants.

Long-term capital growth, valuable tax relief

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3rd BUSINESS EXPANSION FUND HOTELS

Object: To offer qualifying investors the prospect of asset-backed capital growth through investment in the U.K.'s expanding hotel industry.

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Special discount for investment before 18th December, 1985.

Minimum investment: £3,000. Special arrangements are available for participation by practising accountants. The fund may be closed at any time at the Manager's discretion.

How to invest: You may apply only on the terms and conditions set out in the fund Memorandum. For your copy, please send in the attached coupon or telephone 01-623 1050.

Note: Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks as well as the chance of higher rewards. Before you invest, you should consult your stockbroker, accountant, solicitor or other professional adviser. Approval of the fund has not been obtained for the limited purposes of paragraph 19(2) of Schedule 5 to the Finance Act 1982.

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3 FT23/11

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Briefcase

Cattle trample the garden

Should I pursue a claim for damages against a local farmer whose cattle entered my drive and trampled over the garden and lawn. In this lane it is not possible to have gates. The farmer, who lives in the same lane, admits responsibility and has apologised, but refuses to pay compensation, saying that he took reasonable care while driving his cattle to another field. He referred me to his insurance company which sent an assessor who estimated the damage to be £70. The Insurance Society however, will not meet the claim.

It is unlikely that you can make a claim for damages for trespass by the cattle: the terms of the Animals Act 1971 afford considerable protection to the farmer, hence the response of the insurers. You could examine your own insurance to see if it affords you cover, but it is unlikely that this would be so.

Drinks go to the dogs

About six months ago I visited a local licensed establishment, when another customer who had just eaten a snack on the premises offered me the remains on a plate to a dog who polished them off and was licking the plate. I protested to the customer and to the licensee who owned the dog and it was told it would not happen again. In October I was again in the same establishment and a customer had one of the dogs with its hind legs on a chair and its front legs on the table, drinking out of glasses held by the customer. I told this person that I objected to his conduct and considered it a serious danger to public health. I again saw the licensee and was told the matter would be dealt with and that it would not happen again. The dog has the run of the place. What is the position of animals on licensed premises where they sell food and drink? This is a matter for the Environmental Health officer at your local authority, and you should take the matter up with that officer. It is a matter of fact and degree whether there is a head in the records?

Bed and breakfast bounced back

Can you kindly tell me what the present law is regarding bed and breakfast? It used to be that one could sell and rebuy within the same account, thus establishing a loss for the cost of one commission and a small jobbers' turn. Recently, under the present Chancellor, it was ruled that the sale had to be in one Account and the repurchase in the next Account, for the cost of two commissions, a full jobbers' turn and stamp duty. More recently still I understand there has been some relaxation: but although they both agreed that this was so, neither any stockbroker nor the accountant who does my tax return could say exactly what the relaxation is.

Assuming that you are only talking about bed-and-breakfast transactions in UK equities on The Stock Exchange, the answer is that you can do what you used to do before April 6 1982, namely sell on Day 1 and buy on Day 2 (within an account,

hazard; there is no prohibition on dogs as such in public houses, although the conduct you describe may well contribute a sufficient hazard for action to be taken by the local authority).

Trustees' CGT liability on sales

My father died in 1971 and left part of his estate in trust—the income to go to my mother until her death. Mother remains well and healthy and we contemplate selling some equities while the market is high.

(1) Would any such sales be eligible for the "gains not exceeding £5,000" disposals not exceeding £11,200" exemption provided mother sells none of her own assets in the same tax year?

(2) I understand that the Trust will not attract Capital Transfer Tax but will CGT be payable on mother's estate? 1—The Trustees' CGT exempt amount for 1985-86 is £2,950. This is quite independent of your mother's personal exempt amount, which is £5,900 this year.

2—No (if we have correctly interpreted your question).

New house number needed

By agreement with the Post Office and local planning authority, a change has been made in the address of my house, which is one of several properties in an enclave. Previously the properties in the enclave had a single house number and were differentiated by a suffix letter. This number and appropriate suffix letter is used to identify the house in the deeds. The building society with which I have a mortgage has already been notified of the change. It is essential for the Land Registry to be informed of the change in address, and if so, will there be any cost involved in effecting a change in the records?

Your accountants should not be discouraged by the final part of paragraph 19.17 on p.571 of Butterworths' UK Tax Guide 1985-86. This was prepared before the Government tabled its crucial amendment (inserting the word "subsequently" into what is now paragraph 18 (1) of schedule 19 to the Finance Act) and unfortunately was not altered in the final stages of preparation and printing. There were a remarkable number of last-minute changes to the CGT rules this year—and there will doubtless be many more next year, possibly retrospectively, from the beginning of the current tax year.

CGT shows signs of getting out of control if a lot of work is not done upon the legislation before next spring—preferably with full and unhurried consultation.

It is not essential to inform the Land Registry of the change in the house numbering, but it is advisable to do so in order that any notice which the Chief Land Registrar may have to send you is correctly addressed. The entry should be made free of charge.

Sit tight until told otherwise

The head lease of my land, June 1913 to June 1986. The premises consist of a shop with living accommodation above.

The lease merely states that at the expiration "I should quietly yield up unto the lessors".

Do I have to give notice to the lessor that I wish to renew the lease or purchase the property?

I am loath to contact the lessor—a very large public company—as I pay no ground rent and it is possible that it may overlook that the renewal is due.

Would I forfeit any rights if I do not give notice?

You do not have to give notice, but should sit tight. The premises are probably protected under Part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

In which case the landlords would have to give you formal notice if they want to terminate the tenancy. Only then would you need to act. If therefore you receive a notice from the landlords, you should at once consult solicitors.

Ask daughters to countersign

I wish to gift some capital to my daughters. I have too many shares in one particular company whose price has rocketed and whose sale would involve me in a considerable gains tax liability.

As I have already reached the limit of my £5,900 allowance for this year, if I gave them

some of these shares and they sold them would they suffer any CGT liability?

Provided the gain for the year is less than the limit?

No, and you could avoid CGT upon the gifts by inviting each daughter to countersign your statement for holdover relief on the gift to her (by virtue of section 79 of the Finance Act 1980).

Of course, once the shares are registered in each daughter's name, it will be for her to decide whether to sell them and, if so, when. There must be no prearranged sequence of events, or the Revenue may assess you to CGT on the basis that the substance of each of the composite transactions was a gift of the cash proceeds, not of the shares.

Receiving what could be a large sum from partial commutation of the pension gives the recipient a financial freedom and flexibility of action that getting the pension itself could achieve only over a long period.

The cash could be used to buy a boat or a larger house and some of it might finance a world cruise or a new car. But if the happy recipient merely invests this addition to his capital, a very advantageous position is likely to result.

As will be seen, the income

Consider Mr Brown whose

total income is such that he has

a marginal tax rate of 50 per cent and who commutes one-third of his £21,000-a-year

sum of £70,000. This he invests

at 10 per cent.

Naturally, the commutation will reduce Mr Brown's pension: but after taking into account the tax which would have been paid on it, the net reduction is as follows:

Full pension £21,000

Reduced pension £14,000

Gross reduction in pension £7,000

Deduct Overseas Pension Tax Relief 1/10th £700

Tax payable at 50% £3,150

Net reduction in pension £3,850

On the other hand, the new capital will itself produce

income: £70,000 invested

at 10% £7,000

Deduct tax at 50% £3,500

Net income £3,500

As will be seen, the income

Consider Mr Brown whose

total income is such that he has

a marginal tax rate of 50 per cent and who commutes one-third of his £21,000-a-year

sum of £70,000. This he invests

at 10 per cent.

Naturally, the commutation will reduce Mr Brown's pension: but after taking into account the tax which would have been paid on it, the net reduction is as follows:

Full pension £21,000

Reduced pension £14,000

Gross reduction in pension £7,000

Deduct Overseas Pension Tax Relief 1/10th £700

Tax payable at 50% £3,150

Net Income £1,750

Pensions

Consider Mr Brown, expatriate

His annual income loss would now be £2,100 (£3,850-£1,750), and commutation would become disadvantageous after 35 years (£7,000-£3,150).

£2,100

If the pension is indexed and inflation is running at the rate of 10 per cent a year, the net pension increase foregone at the end of the first year by reason of the commutation would be £355, as follows:

Pension increase £7,000

at 10% £700

deduct Overseas Pension Tax relief £70

Annual Income Loss £355

The most generous pension schemes allow commutation without any curtailment of widow's pension. However, even if it does reduce that pension, too, the overall result is not likely to be changed much.

Of course, instead of investing his lump sum for high yield, Mr Brown might prefer a portfolio of equities producing an average income of say, 5 per cent, together with the prospect of future capital appreciation. The net income produced would then be: £70,000 invested at 5% £3,500 deduct tax at 50% £1,750

Net Income £1,750

Tax payable at 50% £315

£385

But if the investments achieve a growth of just one-half of this rate, the increase in the value of the portfolio would be £70,000 at 5% £3,500.

Naturally, every pensioner should carefully examine the figures appropriate to his particular scheme but, in the great majority of cases, the conclusion is likely to be clear. If you have the right to commute your pension, do so.

Donald Elkin

A SHORT EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THE MERCURY EUROPEAN GROWTH FUND COULD BE ONE OF THE BEST LONG TERM GROWTH FUNDS AVAILABLE.

This fund was launched in December 1983. By 1st November, 1985 the value of units had increased by 64.9 per cent.*

This puts it amongst the best performing unit trusts investing in Europe.

For the year to 31st December 1984, it was the best performing European unit trust, and over the twelve months to 1st November, 1985 it was in the top three.*

An impressive track record which would seem to indicate that the investor looking for long term capital growth through a European fund will find no better.

The success of this fund can be explained by the way in which it is managed.

The managers pursue a highly selective approach giving the Fund a comparatively small number of holdings.

Moreover, the portfolio is constantly re-evaluated against detailed and continuous research to achieve the most effective management of the fund. The success of this Fund can also be explained by who runs it.

*Figures from Planned Savings including re-invested income, offer price to bid price basis. The Fund was previously known as Mercury European Fund.

MERCURY

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I/We wish to purchase distribution/accumulation* units in Mercury European Growth Fund to the value of at the offer price ruling on receipt of my/our application.

A cheque made payable to Mercury Fund Managers Limited is enclosed.

I am/we are over 18 years of age.

Please tick this box for further details about Mercury European Growth Fund.

Please tick this box for information about the other Mercury funds.

*Please delete as appropriate—otherwise distribution units will be allocated.

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Tide)

Forenames in full

Address

Postcode

(Payments and correspondence will be sent to this address unless you specify otherwise.)

Signature _____ Date _____

(Particulars and signature(s) of any joint applicant(s) should be attached.)

This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

FT23/11

1% Discount until 11th December

Happy Birthday

Baillie Gifford, winner of the Money Observer's 1984 Best Investment Trust Group award, has pleasure in announcing that the Unit Trusts which it launched in October 1984, at 100p per unit, performed over the year as follows:

Offer Price 31st October 1985	Planned Savings
128.1p	1st (84 funds)
112.4p	1st (34 funds)
170.6p	1st (87 funds)
102.4p	11th (37 funds)
157.4p	1st (85 funds)

For information on these Unit Trusts and on BG European Unit Trust (launched July 1983 at 50p, offer price 62.0p on 31st October 1985) please complete and return the coupon below or phone Robert Cutler on 01-638 1626, or Elaine Coles on 031-226 6066.

Note: Investments in BG Unit Trusts between 18th November and 11th December will benefit from a SPECIAL 1% DISCOUNT

To: Baillie Gifford & Co Limited, FREPOST, 3 Glenfinlas Street, EDINBURGH EH3 6YV.

Please send me information on BG* Unit Trust (insert name of trust)

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The minimum initial investment in Mercury European Growth Fund is £1,000. Subsequent investments may be made in amounts of at least £100. Units may be purchased or sold back at offer and bid prices calculated daily. Prices will be published daily in the Financial Times and the Daily Telegraph but without responsibility for any error publication or for non-publication. Contract notes will normally be issued within two days of receipt of applications. Units can be realised at any time and payment will normally be made within seven days of receipt of the renounced certificate(s). Management Charges: an initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price of units. The annual management charge is 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Fund, which is charged initially against income and is taken into account when calculating the prices of units. On giving three months' notice, the Managers would be permitted to increase this charge to a maximum of 1.75% (plus VAT). The Managers are also entitled to a rounding adjustment included in the bid and offer prices of up to 1% or 1.25p, whichever is less. Audited annual accounts will be sent to unitholders and a report on the progress of the Fund, together with a list of current holdings, will be sent to unitholders twice a year. Income, net of basic rate tax, is distributed to unitholders on 25th September each year. The Managers also offer accumulation units. Yield: the offer price of Mercury European Growth Fund distribution units on 1st November 1985 was 86.8p and the estimated gross current yield was 1.71% per annum. Commission is paid to qualified intermediaries and rates are available on request. The Managers are Mercury Fund Managers Limited, a subsidiary of Warburg Investment Management Limited and a member of the Unit Trust Association. The Trustee is The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. The Fund is

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DISTILLERS



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But for all this, we don't see the world marketplace as a kind of cocktail bar for the svelte and successful.

We know it's a tough place where flair, innovation and tenacity are prime requirements. Where the quality of our people counts for everything. And where success calls for a certain kind of bottle.

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The Antiquary · John Barr · John Begg · Black & White · Buchanan's · Cardhu Highland Malt · Claymore · Crawford's Special Reserve · Dewar's White Label · Dimple
Haig · Johnnie Walker Red Label · Johnnie Walker Black Label · Lagavulin · McCallum's De Luxe · Mackie's · Old Parr · Slater & Scott Grass Green · Talisker · Usher's Green Stripe · Vat 69 · Ye Monks
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Class

CHAMPAGNE

FORGET
CHRISTMAS
THIS Y



Saleroom

Scripted links with the past

WHAT IS the longest established, and most secure, of the saleroom markets? The answer must be 'western illuminated manuscripts'. They commanded high prices from the moment the scribe laid down his quill in the 15th century and the advent of printing hardly dented their appeal.

Along came Elizabethan

antiquarians, like the Earl of Arundel, with an insatiable

thirst for old manuscripts,

and every subsequent generation has sought historical knowledge, or

the satisfaction, in this most

timable—and most numerous

link with the medieval world,

and indeed with the so-called

Dark Ages.

More to the point the now-recess riches have always collected them, from the Medicis of the 15th century to the Rothschilds of the 19th. Today J. Paul Getty Jr is among the keenest buyers. That very

curious institution, the British

Pail Pension Fund, paid £82,500

in June for a scrap of vellum of

the 7th century which might just

have been written in England.

Not surprisingly, the highest

price ever paid for a work of

art at auction is the £814,000

which secured the Gospels of

Henry the Lion at Sotheby's in

1933.

Apart from the consistent

buying, which has largely

eliminated cyclical phases in

this market, there has also been

the stability of one major

source of supply—Sotheby's.

Until the 1950s Sotheby's dealt

mainly in books and manu-

scripts and for well over 200

years most of the important

manuscripts passed through its

rooms. Every year it sells about

200 medieval manuscripts as

against less than 20 at Christie's.

The main dealers can hardly

compete. Kraus of New York

will rarely have more than 20

good manuscripts on offer at

any one time, and the majority

of them will have been bought

at Sotheby's. Maggs of London

might have four in stock.

Sotheby's is holding one of its

biannual sales on Tuesday.

Although demand stays constant there are changes in fashion. In recent years the very old manuscripts have commanded high prices while the pretty illuminated Books of Hours of the 15th century, the basic medieval manuscript, is less sought after. In the 15th century it was local records which excited the interest: now 13th century rent rolls and the like are out of favour.

Because Sotheby's has dealt in the manuscripts for over 100 centuries it can trace the price patterns. In 1858 a rather dull manuscript from the reign of King John of local interest sold for £50, the price of a modest London house; in 1881 it only made £700. In contrast, a Florentine History of Rome, of around 1470, a much more appealing document, has been sold by Sotheby's six times, starting at £65 in 1784, falling to £45 in 1829, before making £2,400 four years ago.

On Tuesday the saleroom is offering a very attractive French illuminated manuscript of around 1470, with a secular theme, the history of the world. The last time Sotheby's sold it at the Duke of Hamilton's sale in 1888, it made £155. Now it is estimated at £100,000-£150,000.

What excited Dr Christopher de Hamel, Sotheby's specialist in this area, is the wide price range at his sales. The highest price next week should be paid for a very old manuscript, a Carolingian Gospel Book of the 9th century, which had been lost for over 50 years, and which has never been on the market. It is very much to the modern taste and should sell for over £300,000, perhaps to a museum or public institution. (About

half the medieval manuscripts enter the public sector at each sale, reducing the supply for private collectors.)

In contrast you can still buy four tiny late 15th century miniatures cut from a French Book of Hours for £300-£400, a modest price for a direct link with the world of half a reformer Wycliffe they were the underground literature of their day, possessing such a Bible could lead to imprisonment, even death. Only 235 are known to have survived and most of these are firmly guarded by museums—the British Library has more than 100 copies. With perhaps half a dozen in private hands a collector will have a rare chance next week to acquire a copy, for around £12,000-£16,000.

There is just one disappointment for Christopher de Hamel. Operating in such a well-researched and stable market the chances of a sensational but unknown manuscript surfacing are poor. He does not

expect to sell again any manuscript which approaches in importance the Gospels of Henry the Lion. But there are still things to seek out. One of the most valuable of British produced manuscripts is the 12th century Winchester Bible. Over the years, ecclesiastical vandals have cut and run with around a dozen of its illuminated initials, the most recent in the early 1920s. Somewhere lurk these decorative fragments, each with a value in excess of £100,000.

DIVERSIONS

Collecting

Designed to adorn

JEWELLERY IS one of my blinder spots. I do not possess it or wear it, and the glamorous hard-back auction catalogues of Geneva jewellery sales leave me cold. I am inclined to echo Goldsmith's ironic gratitude to people who wear jewels: "You have let me look at them, and that is all the use you can make of them yourself; moreover, you have the trouble of watching them, and that is an employment I do not much desire."

Even so it is hard to remain unmoved, gazing in museums at earrings that dangled from the lobes of Rameses II, collars that graced the brown neck of Tutankhamen, or chic little gold gewgaws once treasured by anonymous but well-heeled Roman citizens. The florid creations designed by Catherine the Great's court jewellers to sparkle in the candlelight of imperial soirees are among the most evocative objects now in Soviet museums.

It is revealing too to glimpse the creative effort of the people who designed them; and a rare chance to do so is afforded by a unique album of 1,593 designs for jewellery and goldsmiths' work by a number of designers working for one Victorian jeweller, John Brogden and Son, between 1848 and 1864. The album, styled "The Brogden Archive", will be sold by Sotheby's on December 5. It is expected to realise around £20,000-£16,000.

There is just one disappointment for Christopher de Hamel. Operating in such a well-researched and stable market the chances of a sensational but unknown manuscript surfacing are poor. He does not

expect to sell again any manu-

script which approaches in importance the Gospels of Henry the Lion. But there are still things to seek out. One of the most valuable of British produced manuscripts is the 12th century Winchester Bible. Over the years, ecclesiastical vandals have cut and run with around a dozen of its illuminated initials, the most recent in the early 1920s. Somewhere lurk these decorative fragments, each with a value in excess of £100,000.

Antony Thorncroft

went into partnership with J. H. Watherston in 1848, Watherston and Brogden. The firm traded from 18 Henrietta Street in London's West End and continued to do so after John Brogden assumed sole control with the retirement of Watherston. Brogden moved in 1880 to 4 Grand Hotel Buildings, Charing Cross, and finally closed down after John Brogden's death in 1884.

The 19th century was a period of artistic and social revolution for jewellery. The French Revolution left Europe generally impoverished, and the rich and royal less eager than before to display their wealth. As semi-precious stones, paste and imitation gold came into more general use, and designers concentrated on settings for smaller and cheaper stones, the wearing of jewellery became more democratic.

The demand from the new bourgeoisie was immense, and commercialisation of jewellery manufacture, accelerated when South African diamonds came on to the market at the end of the 1860s, inevitably led to deterioration and stereotyping of designs.

Brogden however was recognis

ed as an "antiquarian", a jeweller, one of a group which sought fresh inspiration in ancient designs. The most famous of them were Giuliano, also based in London; and Falize in Paris who revived Renaissance styles, with enamelled and jewelled gold; and Castellani of Rome and Fontenay of Paris who imitated the "Etruscan" styles of classical jewellery in museums and private collections.

The inspiration Brogden

found in antique forms was first rewarded in the Great Exhibition of 1851, when the firm received the Prize Medal for a covered cup, "in the ancient style," of gold, enamels and precious stones, weighing 95 oz. Designed by Alfred Brown, it was ornamented with allegorical scenes in praise of England, with figures of Fame crowning Nelson, Wellington, Shakespeare, Milton, Newton and Watt.

After this Brogden exhibited regularly at the great international exhibitions, a vital promotional outlet for any go-ahead 19th-century manufacturer. It was nothing if not eclectic. In Paris, 1867, he showed jewels inspired by Assyrian, Egyptian, Roman, Viking and Renaissance jewelery, which his assiduous designers had studied in museums and in old paintings.

A handsome gothic cross with a painting attributed to Quentin Massys in the National Gallery was a popular Brogden design. "Mr Brogden," said the Art Journal, "is a scholar in his profession, and his learning is shown in all the works he produces." At the 1878 Paris Exhibition, Brogden was given a gold medal and the Legion

d'Honneur.

It is not certain whether he designed any of his own jewellery. Several hands are distinguishable in the album, including that of the most celebrated Victorian designer in this country, Mrs Philip Newman. Fifty of her drawings in the archive constitute the only known collection of designs by London's first woman artist-jeweller.

These highly finished talented

little sketches often reveal the

source of her inspiration in museums originals or architectural details. The most notable is for the Worcester Casket, made for presentation by the Monmouth magistrates on the occasion of the coming of age of the Marquess of Worcester in 1868.

Trained at the government art school in South Kensington and married to the artist designer Philip H. G. Newman, Mrs Newman set up her own workshop as a "Court Jeweller" in Savile Row after the death of her employer. Regarded as a significant precursor, if not a pioneer of the Arts and Crafts Movement, her elegant jewelery is marked, somewhat primly, with an austere "Mrs N." in a neat rectangle. Her designs are usually signed with a simple "N."

Janet Marsh

Archaeology

Bury me in my sensible shoes

GLOUCESTERSHIRE seems to represent a state of mind, defined by the country's great gardens, big houses, rich wool churches, hanging valleys, hunts and families. Less obvious to its character are its fine Neolithic long barrows which give a fresh perspective on the country and go some way towards revealing its state of mind in the 4th and 3rd millennia BC.

Long barrows are rectangular or trapezoidal burial mounds in Gloucestershire ranging from 30 to 100m, usually aligned east-west and built of soil and stone with a stone wall around them marking the limits.

Inside these mighty mounds

are one or more chambers with

passages to them. In some

there are chambers in the long

sides which open to the outside.

The chambers are generally

built of large stones (megoliths),

set on edge as orthostats, and

circled round to the north.

South-west of the village of

Rodmarton and north of the

A433 is Windmill Tump.

Tump is a splendid word of the West

Country and West Midlands, not

known till the late 18th century.

The first citation in the OED

sums it up: "they brought him

unawares to a dunghill, taking

it for a tump, since a Tumbe

might not be had." Windmill

Tump has an 18th century

aspect. It is covered in trees,

ivy and scrub and full of hollows caused by investigations

over the years. The barrow is

on a gentle slope and reached

by a path along the edge of a

field of kale.

The burial chambers are in the long sides. At the east end is a false entrance, presumably intended to foil grave robbers. If you continue to Uley, leaving on the B4066 and following signs to Uley Tumulus, you will come to Hetty Pegler's Tump; she owned it in the 17th century. Stop at Crawley Hill Farm near the top of the hill to collect the key to the burial chambers.

The barrow is half a mile further on. It has a fantastic view of the Severn valley from right on the edge. You feel you must not make a wrong step. A tatty wire fence needs replacing with a wooden one or a drystone wall.

A short passage leads to a low doorway with a colossal lintel through which you can crawl. Inside are side chambers, partly blocked, and an end chamber, made of great orthostats and drystone walling. The chambers in the sides are in good condition. But what is really unusual is the walling of this Cotswold stones laid horizontally, preserved around the forecast and false entrance to almost 2m. The delicacy of the work is an astonishing contrast to the solidity of the mound and the wild openness of its position.

The grandest of all, and wonderfully remote, is Belas Knap, above the valley between Winchcombe and Charlton Abbotts, in the usual dominant position on the edge, while below are two Roman villas and Sudeley Castle. It is a good walk up to 950 feet high but well worth while. The mound stands out across the fields like a grass whale. The chambers in the sides are in good condition. But what is really unusual is the walling of this Cotswold stones

laid horizontally, preserved around the forecast and false entrance to almost 2m. The delicacy of the work is an astonishing contrast to the solidity of the mound and the wild openness of its position.

Gerald Cadogan

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT GIVEAWAY PRICES.



Christmas Market at the Guildhall

10.30 am — 3.45 pm

Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th November

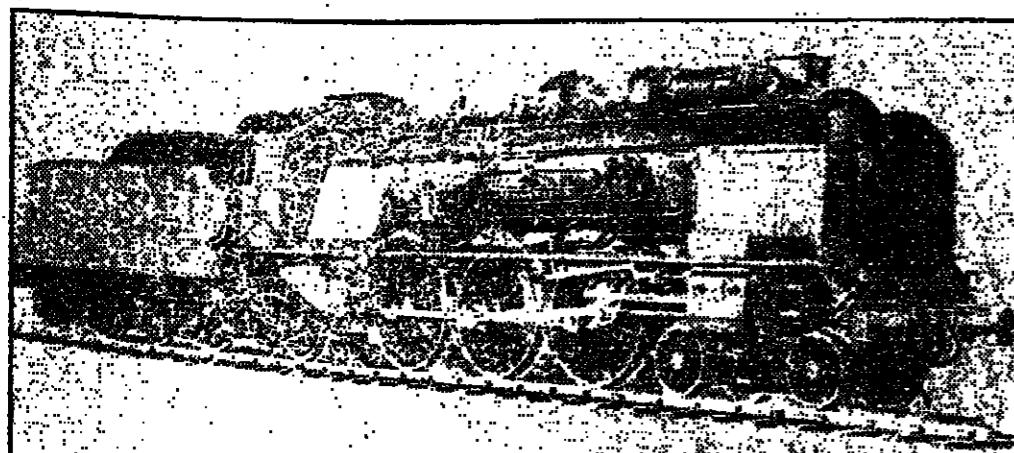
Official opening by the Lady Mayoress at 10.30 am on 27th November

Goods on sale include:

Christmas Crackers, Gifts, Groceries at the Farm Shop, Cakes, Fruit, Plants and Flowers, Nearly New Clothing and the Recipe Book. PLUS: Raffle and Tombola, Refreshments.



DIVERSIONS



All-metal 0 gauge model of a 1934 French locomotive. 21 inches long. Rivarossi's Masterpiece series. price £1500.

For one-track minds

The model train business is gathering steam. Michael Strutt examines a world in miniature.

THE MICROCHIP is being given a run for its money by a traditional hobby which is making a surprising comeback this year. Model trains as a children's toy took a battering from Star Wars spin-offs, electronic games and home computers, but sales are now rising again and as an adult hobby trains are going from strength to strength.

There is now a huge and ever-expanding choice of individual locomotives and special sets for children and enthusiasts to run, and for collectors to put on the sideboard—some at far from pocketmoney prices.

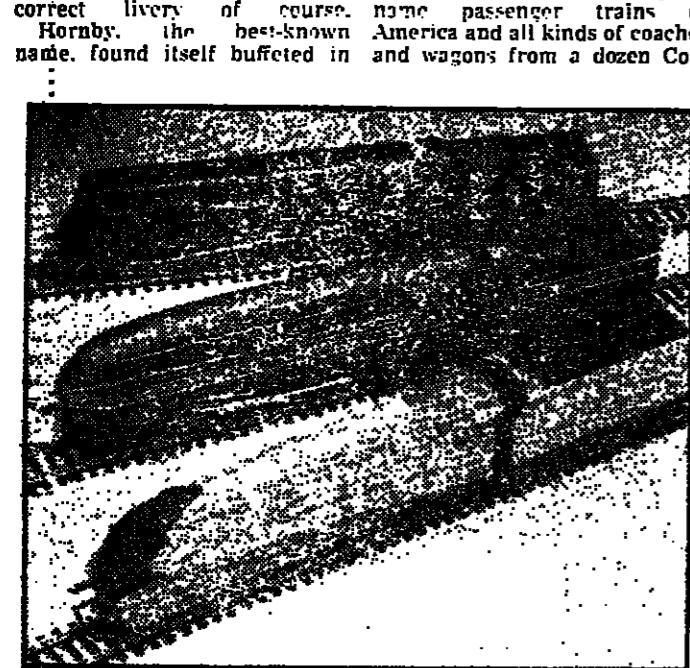
One set, for example, marks this year's 150th anniversary of the Great Western Railway, in correct livery, of course. Hornby, the best-known name, found itself buffeted in

the 1970s by the instant appeal of electronic toys, and also by two new manufacturers—Mainline and Airfix. But there wasn't enough room and the two newcomers themselves ran into trouble, though they are still available.

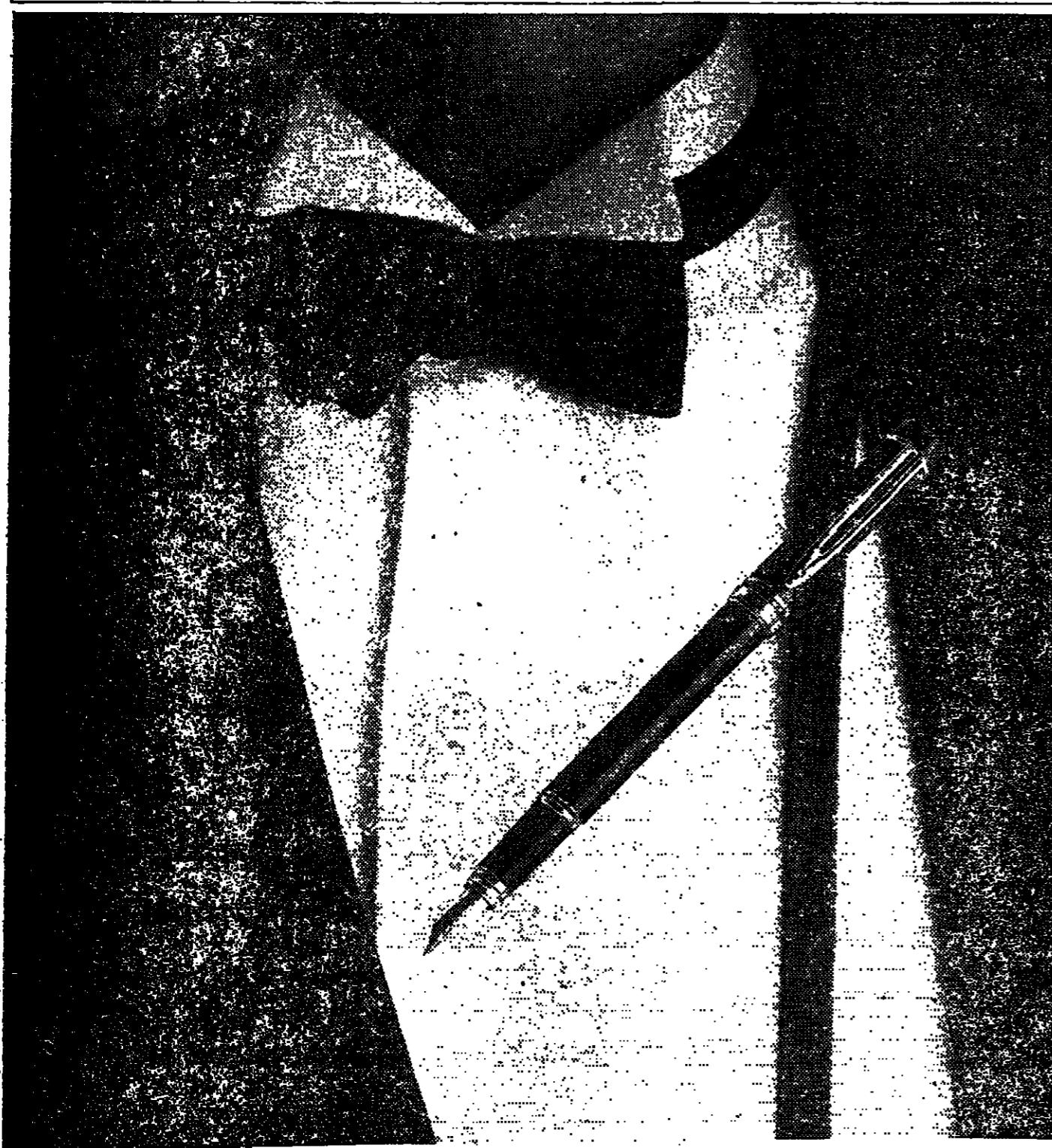
Simon Kohler, Hornby's marketing manager, says: "About a year ago people started returning to traditional toys and pastimes. Exposure to trains on TV, through Great Western celebrations, for example, have also helped bring children back to looking at model trains."

Boaties, the high street chain of model shops, also says that sales are up, as does Peco, the specialist track maker, which exports most of its output and reckons that seven out of ten of its customers are adults.

Almost every kind of train seems to be modelled and the variety is bewildering: narrow-gauge engines and bogies, diesel shunters, to famous British locomotives such as Mallard and Coronation, great name passenger trains of America and all kinds of coaches and wagons from a dozen Con-



Classic British 00 gauge locomotives by Hornby. From top: 41 Squadron of Southern Region, LMS City of Bristol, and LNER's Silver Fox £35-£40



WATERMAN
PARIS

8 ft x 4 ft 00 layout can be set up in N gauge on a board measuring 4 ft x 2 ft.

But model trains can be smaller than this. The tiny and expensive—Z gauge, made only by Märklin, has rails a mere 6.5 mm apart. Its locomotives, a couple of inches long, are made as finely as a watch and can cost up to £70 each.

Larger still than 0 gauge is gauge 1 (45 mm) for which some remarkable metal models are made, often steam-powered, big enough to run in the garden during summer. It is also the track size for LGB (Lehmann's Big Railway), the large and cheerful indoor/outdoor train made by Lehmann of Nuremberg. Colin Sparrow of Beatties says: "A lot of men buy LGB sets for the children but they are really for themselves."

The specialist end of the market, for the dedicated collector, is fascinating. The pieces, costing several hundred pounds, are a tribute to the manufacturer's or handbuilder's art. Already an appreciating asset, these very high-quality models, from makers such as Rivarossi, Metropolitan and Fulgurex, are the collectors' items of tomorrow if not now.

They are distributed through specialist dealers such as Victor's in London and Kittle Hobby in Swansea.

Treatment methods vary. In general, however, hypnotherapists first explain hypnosis and reassure patients that they won't lose control. They induce a light stage of hypnosis until the patient's eyes are closed. Finally, they deepen the hypnosis if it is considered necessary.

Hypnotherapy works by persuading patients to relax, to lower their normal defences and explore memories that may have been deliberately repressed. In this way, the therapist can discover the root of the problem and, while the mind is relaxed and receptive, plant in positive suggestions.

Practised correctly, hypno-

therapy can do no harm. However, hypnotherapists are not legally obliged to have training or qualifications—so it is important to go to a reputable practitioner. With that in mind, I contacted the British Society of Medical and Dental Hypnosis, which holds a national register of medically qualified hypnotherapists, and asked for one in London.

Many people are apprehensive about hypnotherapists because of the lasting impression left by stage hypnotists—with their melodramatic control over members of an audience. Potential patients are often uncertain what to expect from a hypnotherapist and hesitate to find out.

The room of the hypo-

therapist I visited was free

from any overtones of Svengali.

It was light and airy, it had

three comfortable chairs and a

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I explained that I was nervous about a speech I was to give in

Addresses

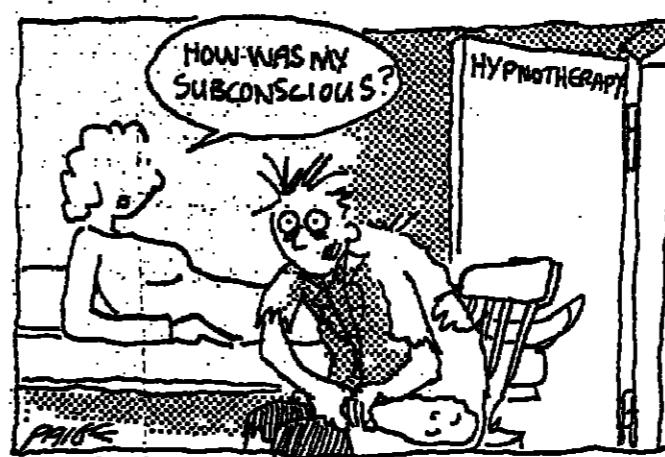
Hatton's, 189 Smithdown Road, Liverpool 15 (tel: 051 733 2655); Kittle Hobby, 24 Penward Road, Portslade, Swansea (tel: 044 238 2508); Model Railways, 14 York Way, London N1 (tel: 01-537 5551); Victor's, 166 Pentonville Road, London N1 (tel: 01-378 1019); W and H Models, 14 New Cavendish Street, London W1 (tel: 086 3561).

The third is the neat N gauge, developed in the 1960s. A complete layout can fit on to a tabletop and a basic set costs about £50. Several manufacturers make N gauge but the UK market is dominated by the technically excellent diecast Graham Farish range which extends to 300 vehicles, 45 of them locomotives.

N gauge accounts for half the sets sold in Germany and is the gauge of the future, according to managing director Peter Farish. "Houses are built smaller these days and the old

Alternative Health

Dream up a better lifestyle



A GROWING number of small advertisements claim that hypnotherapy can help cure problems as diverse as blushing, compulsive eating, depression and insomnia.

Can it? Or is this claim merely a modern version of 18th century nerve powder, which it was claimed, countered "frightful dreams, confused ideas, failure of memory and horrors?"

Hypnotherapy, practitioners say, can cure or relieve anxiety, phobias, obsessions, thought-induced "illness," loss of memory, blushing, smoking or drug addictions, compulsive eating, impotence or frigidity and depression.

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I explained that I was nervous about a speech I was to give in

a few days. I also felt that my confidence in other areas of my life was in need of bolstering. He asked what I thought was the root of this lack of confidence. In this first session, he would, however, concentrate on helping me with the speech.

He told me to close my eyes and rest my hands on my knees. Then for about 30 minutes he asked me to imagine various scenes. The first was that I had a small, fearful alter ego inside me and that I should envisage her by the side of me, calm her and tell her that her worries were not doing me any good.

I was to recall the last time I had behaved in an unconfident way and mentally re-run the scene, this time acting more assertively. Using this technique I was to recall earlier occasions of the same kind.

He told me to imagine a screen on the left showing past images of failure with speeches and one on the right with images of success. The right hand screen was the positive one on which I should concentrate. He asked what I felt particularly nervous about. I said I was anxious that my mouth would dry up, preventing me from talking. He suggested various practical hints, like taking mineral water with me.

Two people who underwent hypnotherapy told me of their reactions. One, a 42-year-old man, wanted to give up smoking. He felt the hypnotherapy was a waste of time and money.

"I expected some sort of trance," he said. "He just reiterated that I should stop smoking. Apart from my eyes

being closed, it was like listening to my friends."

The other patient, a woman, 38, who washed her hands obsessively about 40 times a day, said that it was only through deep hypnosis that she had begun to realise why she did it. "It was the only treatment that helped. I had tried everything," she said.

Hypnotherapy can undoubtedly point to an impressive number of successes. Nevertheless, I felt that the hypnotherapist had merely given me a pep talk that I could have given myself. He asked how I felt, and I told him. Confidentially. Perhaps, on reflection, he had helped me.

When I went back, however, to tell him the speech had not gone badly, he told me off for not being positive. "Say it was good," he insisted. I had to try several times, because I was so used to self-deprecation.

What I learned from him is that the confidence is there, but I had been undermining it.

Costs

I paid £25 for my hour-long session, and each further session will be the same amount. Costs vary among hypnotherapists. Some charge only £8-£10 for half an hour, but bargain rates may mean an inexperienced practitioner.

Names of medical practitioners or doctors who have also trained in hypnotherapy can be obtained from the British Society of Dental and Medical Hypnosis, 42 Links Road, Ashtead, Surrey. The British Hypnotherapy Association, 67 Upper Berkeley Street, London W1, also runs a referral service (though practitioners are not necessarily medically qualified); and information and practical help can be obtained from the British Society of Hypnotherapists, 51 Queen Ann Street, London W1. (See required.)

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Gardening



Stars and stripes forever

VARIEGATION is a gift of nature, not something you can breed. Every now and again a plant turns up with some leaves that are not wholly green, but instead are marked with white, cream or yellow. It can come in spots or splashes, as an edge to the leaves, or as a blotch or streak in the centre. Occasionally, it might simply follow the veins, giving the leaf a mottled appearance.

Such variegation may be evanescent. You take a cutting from the shoot with the odd-coloured leaves, hoping to preserve the novelty, and it goes back to normal the next year. That happened to me not long ago when someone gave me a shoot from a rosemary that had a gilt edge to each leaf. Nearly all the cuttings rooted, but not one of the plants now shows the slightest sign of variegation.

Fortunately, this is unusual. Generally, the plants derived from cuttings or from grafts (if that proves to be an easier way of propagating the freak which properly is called a sport or mutation) do continue to look just like that original stem. So a new variety is born and, most probably, given a name, although this is not always so.

Sometimes, you can get several variegations from the same species. There are two well-known golden variegations of *Elaeagnus pungens*, a bushy shrub with inconspicuous, but sweetly scented flowers in the autumn. The one most commonly sold by nurseries is called *Maculata* and has a large blotch of yellow in the centre of each leaf; but the one I grow has a yellow band around a green centre and is variously

MANY years ago I lived in a village off the farm and early one Sunday morning was woken by a gunshot in a field behind my house. Looking out I saw the local poacher run up to a corn rick, put something in it and then disappear up the hedge. I went to investigate and found that he had hidden a partridge there. Such practices are not to be encouraged, so I reported the partridge, replacing it with a note suggesting that he call at the landowner's house and ask for it back. We then ate the partridge.

I came to know this character well later and always found it best, when I became a landowner, to invite him shooting so that I would know that when I was at one end of the farm, he was not reducing the stock at the other. I also had a great deal of sympathy for what might be called the non-professional poacher—that is, the man who did it for sport and not simply as a business.

When I was a tenant farmer the landlord often kept the game for himself and it used to irk me when his pheasants scratched up my corn and I felt the keeper was always spying on me. Rabbits had always been fair game for a tenant and it was most frustrating to see a pheasant come out of a bush

completely golden—plant since, lacking any chlorophyll to enable it to use the energy of sunlight to manufacture food, it would probably die rapidly of starvation.

There are some plants that have all-yellow leaves and yet survive, but if you look closely you will see they have some under-current of green or are wholly yellow only for a period and become increasingly green as the summer advances. This is true of the mock orange named *Phillyadelphus coronarius aureus* and of *Spiraea japonica Goldflame*. Both are excellent garden shrubs but are not evergreen, so they do not help the colour display in winter.

The Indian bean tree, *Catalpa bignonioides*, has an all-yellow leaved variety named *Aurea* which, like many variegated plants, does not grow as fast as its normal green-leaved parent. It is much planted as a street tree and does very well in towns, but it is late coming into leaf in the spring. Recently, in a small nursery, I saw a very unusual form of this tree which had a double variegation, some parts of each leaf being yellow as in *Aurea*, and some parts lime green. It was being sold as *C. bignonioides variegata* and I thought it attractive although not as bright as *Aurea*.

Griselinia littoralis is a big bushy evergreen that has two variegated forms, one the reverse of the other. The common one is called *variegata* and has a yellow edge which can become very broad to the point occasionally, at which the leaf no longer has a green centre and is wholly golden. The other form, which does not seem

to have acquired a name, has the yellow in the centre and the green round the edges. I see it from time to time in gardens but I have never encountered it in a nursery or in a nursery catalogue.

Since the green of *griselinia* is itself light and yellowish and the surface of the leaf is very smooth, I rate *Variegata* and its mixture of lime green and gold among the best of yellow variegated evergreens.

There also are some excellent varieties of *euonymus* which offer a great range of heights, from the almost prostrate *Euonymus fortunei variegatus*, which has grey-green leaves edged with white, to the tall and bushy *E. japonicus ovatus* with lustrous green leaves widely bordered with yellow. In addition, there are small shrubby forms of *E. fortunei* which will grow 18-24 in high and spread to a yard or more. *Emerald and Gold* is one of these, with a lot of yellow which becomes more coppery in winter; *Silver Queen* matches it in creamy white; and *Emerald Gaiety* is deep green edged with white.

Arthur Hellyer

walking along a lonely lane, whistling perhaps and tapping the road or the branches as he goes, he is probably trying to induce the birds to move to his land or persuading them to return to their birthplace without committing trespass. Which is hard to prove anyway.

I once asked Alf if he had ever been caught. Not seriously he admitted. By which I meant that he had never been prosecuted. On one occasion he saw the policeman approaching along the lane with gun and bag of game. The policeman stopped when he became level with him, lit his pipe and then said as he set off again, "You'll get bad rheumatism in that ditch, Alf."

There are still operators on Alf's scale about, often sniping at birds from their cars on Sunday afternoons. But as far as I know there are not the organised gangs which in pre-war days used to have pitched battles with keepers. Most of the aggro is between rival landowners or their employees acting independently. The fact is that game birds are not really valuable enough to make poaching a commercial and not a sporting activity. Quite unlike salmon poaching.

John Cherrington

Country notes

Fair and fowl play

which might have held a rabbit and not shot it. Sometimes the temptation was too great to be borne, especially when I knew the keeper was away, and although suspected, I was never caught red-handed.

But circumstances alter cases. I purchased my first small farm and immediately became a game preserver. There was little game on it, rabbits and the odd pheasant. So I joined with Alf, the poacher and together we became a thorn in the side of the local landlords. The pheasant, although it may be reared in captivity, is primarily a feral bird. It becomes the property of the landowner where it finds itself and can be shot by that man—or otherwise taken—as long as he has a game licence.

There are all sorts of tactics for attracting the game for himself. Planting strategic blocks of kale; installing feed there to hold them; or one could go for a stroll through someone's wood with a small bag of wheat and raisins and dribble it along the right hed

Lucia
van der
Post

SEND IT

Children advise on the world of Wuzzles, transformers and Lego

• DIVERSIONS •

Ideas for Santa to toy with

appeals, I understand, to the naughtiest, most caring of little girls.

The appeal of a Wuzzie is even harder to grasp—an unlikely collection of colours (purple, orange, turquoise) combine to form an even more unlikely animal (for instance, a hippo—a combination of a hippo and a kangaroo).

Trains for boys are it appears, losing ground—so much for the age of the train—but Thomas the Tank Engine and Postman Pat are both doing well.

The image of families divided by computer screens once haunted the nation but we can relax—it never came to pass. The family survives and the increasing popularity of board games proves as it will outlast its rivals yet again this year.

Finally, if your oil well has come gushing up or you backed the right horse, you might like to know that it is now possible to buy mini-cars that work on petrol—cheapest is an open “fun kart” at £895.

But enough of what the stores tell us they are selling this Christmas. What do the children want? We asked them to speak for themselves:

• Most of the toys mentioned are widely available but if you have the time and energy you will be able to second-hand stores by “shopping mousely” from one outlet to another with chains like Argos, Asda and Boots offering more competitive prices than the more up-market department stores.

Toys are more than ever a fashion business with cycles coming ever faster. Television, it seems, is an almost overwhelming influence with a series of advertisements being followed by a deluge of requests in the stores. Most years there is one outstanding winner of the popularity stakes—last year it was the year of Master of the Universe, the year before it wasn’t Christmas if you didn’t wake up to find Star Wars in your stocking—but this year the favours are spread out a bit more.

This Christmas the top of the pops are Night Rider, Master of the Universe, My Little Pony, Transformers, Sweet Secrets, Care Bears and the Wuzzles. To those of us reared on Pooh Bears, Meccano sets, dolls houses and building bricks, they sound like alien totems from a strange new world.

But there are some links still between the dreams of children today and those of yesteryear—cuddly toys are still a consistent good seller and even if Care Bear isn’t your idea of an old-fashioned teddy it is at least a familiar idea.

The charm of My Little Pony is hard for an adult to grasp—made of unattractive material, in unappealing colours it seems distinctly short on charm but it

Andrew Coles (12)

“I need a new watch but it must be a chrono with alarm and stopwatch and it must be waterproof. And I’d like any of those Electro records, from 1 to 8. I’d like some blank videos, so I can have my own recordings of programmes I like. Of course if I had a video recorder . . .”

Alison Coles (14)

Alison, in common with a good number of young girls, is horse mad. It was therefore no surprise that what she wanted above all for Christmas was “a horse.” Anything to do with horses, riding, jumping,

whether in the form of books, videos or clothing such as jodhpurs, puffs and so on would be welcome. “A sheepskin jacket” would be more than welcome but more realistically, records by her favourite groups of the moment, Wham! and Aha. A safer though boring bet would be record tokens to avoid the risk of buying the wrong one. As a parting shot, Alison’s final thought was “just give me the money, and I’ll save up for my own horse.”

Caroline Lambert (10)

“For Christmas I would love a bicycle because my old one is much too small for me and I don’t ride it any more but the trouble is Daddy never believes me. I would also like some roller skates with boots on them, for then I would skate

down the road and in the mews next door. As I’ve got a window box, I would like some seeds to put in it.”

I would hate to be given stationery, because I’ve got loads already and I would not like clothes, because I get those just like mine.”

Thomas Bell (4)

“I would like a remote controlled car like Charlie’s so that we can have races and lots of Play People. I don’t want a Care Bear because my sister hates them but I do think boys can have them.”

Emma Bell (10)

“I would like a radio so I can listen to music or something interesting while I am in bed. I would like books, books, books . . . I don’t want a Care Bear, My Little Pony or a Wuzzle that you snuffle as I think they are all horrific.”



Jacqueline King (7)

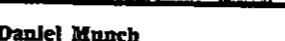
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Scott Kelly (15)

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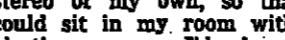
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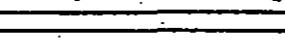
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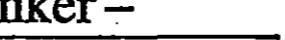
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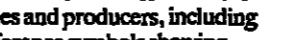
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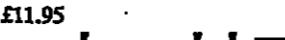
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First past the winning-post

HORSERACING AND RACING SOCIETY
by Jocelyn de Moubrey.
Sidgwick & Jackson. £12.95.
168 pages

THE FAST SET
by George Plumptre. André Deutsch. £12.95. 176 pages

TALES OF RACING AND CHASING
by Terry Biddlecombe. Stanley Paul. £7.95. 87 pages

THE DUBAI Champion Stakes, run at Newmarket in October, produced one of the most scintillating performances of the flat-racing season. Pat Eddery sitting motionless on Pebbles two furlongs from home while all around him were already hard at work was an unforgettable sight. The presentation ceremony, however, remained out of the dependence of British racing on foreign investment. The Maktoums, the ruling family of Dubai, put up £50,000 of the £100,000 prize money while the winning owner was Sheikh Mohammed, one of the three Maktoum brothers who since 1980 have played an increasingly important role in shaping British racing.

Mr de Moubrey tells us in Horseracing and Racing Society that the Maktoums are certainly not in it for the money—each is reputed to have a weekly income in excess of \$1m. However, the author is clearly unhappy about the influence of foreign investors.

Pebbles' performance in the Champion Stakes was ironic in a sense because wealthy owners and breeders seem often to forget that racing is an entertainment industry as well as a commercial operation. The constant search for reward to sustain the massive sums involved in acquiring and breeding potential top-class winners, and the risk of seeing that reward dissipate, does not encourage entertainment. Golden Fleece and Secreto, winners of the Derby in 1962 and last year, ran in only seven races between them.

The author believes that commercialism has got such a grip

on horseracing that the industry's structure and purpose are at risk. However, as he says himself, a general collapse is unlikely, although the racing world must move with the times and must be aware that it is an entertainment industry and one that relies on foreign investment.

To put the current state of horseracing in perspective, the author traces how the industry has evolved in the past century—from the early days of the aristocracy, most of whom were owner, breeder and trainer rolled into one, through the era of the entertainer owners, the Aga Khan and the years of French domination, to the present period of crisis.

In spite of the gloom, British racing remains the best and most varied in the world. Mr de Moubrey has written an entertaining book that covers a lot of ground and will also stimulate thought.

The Edwardian era is regarded as the most glittering period in racing history when Society, led by the Prince of Wales, Edward VII, adopted the sport as its favourite pastime. In The Fast Set George Plumptre brings a lively style to a lively period. Those fortunate enough to be part of the set ensured that they enjoyed themselves to the full: scandal abounded, reputations and fortunes were made and lost.

The period produced the first, and so far, only Prime Minister to own a Derby winner, the fifth Earl of Rosebery. Colourful characters were to be met by the score. Caroline, Duchess of Montrose, for example, who thrice married and aged 70, was heard to say: "I never allow any man into my bedroom except Mr Alex Taylor [her trainer], and he is always welcome."

The book contains many fascinating photographs with brief but informative captions. The most dramatic shot captures the moment when a suffragette ran in front of the King's horse in the 1913 Derby. Emily Davison received fatal injuries; Jockey and horse survived. It was, as Mr Plumptre says, a tragic manner in which to end the period but at the same time an outward sign of the unrest which was developing and would shatter the haleyn stability of Edwardian society.

One feels Terry Biddlecombe, three times National Hunt Champion Jockey in the 1980s, would not have been out of place in the Edwardian racing fraternity. He likes to enjoy himself and does his best to see the funny side of the most embarrassing situations. In Tales of Racing and Chasing, "Bidders," with the help of Jeff Farmer and illustrator Jake Tabb, makes the most of the opportunity to recount anecdotes about himself and many others involved in the game.

Jeremy Bennallack-Hart



Terry Biddlecombe:
from the horse's mouth

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